

MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL
NIGHTLIFE
CLUBBING
GUIDE

ISSUE 212 £1.80 DECEMBER 2014

INSIDE

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THIS CHRISTMAS!

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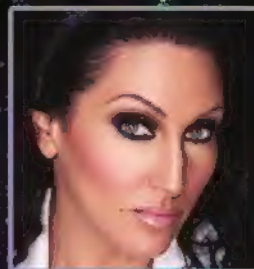
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The Midlands news website for the LGBT community



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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

A hearty winter welcome to the December issue of Midlands Zone magazine. Here at Zone HQ, we're currently decking our halls with boughs of holly in preparation for the forthcoming festive season. We're also very much hoping you find plenty in this issue to keep you entertained while you're waiting for a big fat fellow with an enormous bag of prezzles to enter your chimney and leave you a delightful surprise or several.

Have fun but be safe



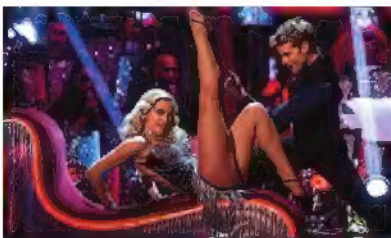
With the season of good will bringing with it plenty of opportunity to put on your party pants and drink till you drop, I think it appropriate to sound a note of caution. When you're three sheets to the wind and the pleasures of the flesh are on the horizon, don't forget to wear a condom. Recent statistics from Public Health England have shown that there are now nearly 110,000 people living with HIV in the UK. Around a quarter of these (26,100) are unaware of their infection and at risk of passing on the virus to others through unprotected sex. The report shows around six percent of gay and bisexual men are now living with HIV. It's estimated that over 7,000 gay men have a HIV infection that remains undiagnosed and that an estimated 2,800 men acquired HIV in 2013. These figures underline the need to further increase both the numbers and frequency of HIV tests, which is critical to tackling the ongoing high levels of HIV transmission. It also underlines the need to behave sensibly at all times when it comes to sleeping with somebody. Don't let 'the demon drink' and a party atmosphere leave you in danger of having unprotected sex this festive season.

Bored with Reality TV

Away from such serious matters, is it just me or are our favourite Reality TV shows in need of a makeover? December's always a great month for anybody who enjoys these still-popular celebrity-driven television extravaganzas, with Strictly Come Dancing, X Factor and I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! all ensuring there's plenty to keep us glued to the goggle-box in the run-up to Christmas. But this year

more than any other I find myself just a little less bothered and a little less interested. These shows have been going a long time now and survive because the viewing figures remain impressive, but that shouldn't mean the shows' producers can just rest on their laurels. Personally I'd like to see a major overhaul of all three series, and of others like Britain's Got Talent.

I desperately want to carry on watching and caring, but I must confess to being at a point where I could do with a little help from the programme makers.



Panto Pleasure

So along with watching Reality TV, popping condoms into my pocket and getting pleasantly sozzled this month, I should just about have enough time left to head for the theatre and laugh out loud at a pantomime Dame or two. The panto Dame, traditionally played by a guy, has offered plenty of employment for much-loved gay stars of stage and screen down the years. Wigs off to 'em all I say, and long may their camp demeanour, saucy innuendo and disconcertingly heavy dependence on rouge continue to entertain us at this most magical time of year.

A very merry yuletide season to you all.



Ryan x

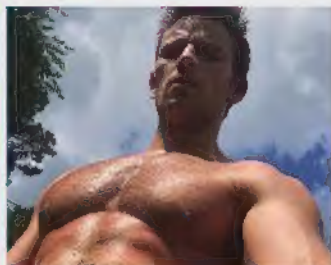
What's Hot!

Marriage conversions!



As from Wednesday 10 December, same-sex couples who've previously entered into a Civil Partnership will be able to 'convert' it to a brand spanking new marriage.

Ellen DeGeneres has a hot new gardener



Lesbian chat show host Ellen DeGeneres has revealed the identity of her new gardener after her last one was poached by the creators of Magic Mike 2. So now Ellen has Derek Yates to trim her bushes and mow her lawn... well, at least until Nick is done with Magic Mike!

What's Not!

Shoot the gays!



A disgusting game has been released on the Google Play app store which allows a player to shoot dead naked gay men as they try to molest you. In 2014 you'd expect Google's rigorous guidelines to catch these terrible games and ban them!

SEASON'S
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
GREETINGS
➡ & ⬅
HAPPY
NEW ♥ YEAR
2015



Making New Year's resolutions?

Don't forget to get tested for sexually transmitted infections and start your new year with peace of mind.

Get tested in Stoke-On-Trent

0300 7900 165

 **Gaylife** Staffordshire-Stoke

Staffordshire and 
Stoke on Trent Partnership
NHS Trust



Corey Hadley

Club DJ
at The Nightingale, Birmingham

Born: Birmingham

Star sign: Scorpio

Age: As if I'm giving that away!

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Corey Hadley, award-winning resident DJ at Birmingham's Nightingale Club.

About Corey

Where did you grow up?

Rubery, South Birmingham, in the shadow of the Lickey Hills.

Single or attached?

I recently married my partner of nearly six years.

What makes you happy?

Having a job I still adore and working for venues I'm proud of. When I've got the crowd hyped, singing along and interacting, it's a fabulous feeling. Also, having a strong, committed, loving home life makes me very happy.

What makes you sad?

Intolerance and prejudice. Live and let live, I say. Plus, my dancing makes me sad! I've never been able to dance. I hit the dancefloor and look like an ostrich being electrocuted! I'm best just having a little private jig in the DJ box.

What makes you angry?

Jessie J! I don't know why she makes me so angry but I see her and want to punch her in the face... with my car!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd be less clumsy! I'm constantly dropping plates, glasses, phones etc. My wife won't let me anywhere near the good china! I'm also constantly breaking electrical equipment, though I've no idea how.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I'm not telling you that either!

You've recently been married. Tell us a bit about your special day...

After about four years of talking about wanting to be married, Dani and I decided that this was the year to do it, especially with all the hard work and campaigning to change the law and make same-sex marriage legal. We luckily had the full support of our families. Getting the venue right for us was the difficult part. We visited dozens of beautiful wedding venues in the UK, but nothing was right for us. They all felt too formal and rigid. We knew we wouldn't feel comfortable, so decided, in a eureka moment, to legally marry in the UK, but spiritually to marry in our favourite place, a little resort in Zakynthos, Greece. Our legal marriage happened in Bromsgrove Registry Office on 1 September with just very close family. The ceremony was actually beautiful. The registrar was very supportive of gay marriage and made everyone feel welcome and supported. Dani and I didn't exchange rings at this ceremony, as we felt we wouldn't be properly married until we'd completed the spiritual wedding on the beach in Greece. We flew out the following day and married on the beach with 40 guests around us.

What was the motivation behind your spiritual wedding, then?

We both have our own spiritual beliefs, so wanted our marriage to be blessed. Luckily we have a very good friend who's a multi-faith minister and was happy to conduct the ceremony for us. She'd guided us through the whole process, ensuring we were ready for the emotional

commitment we were making to each other. Her spirituality was infectious. All our amazing guests (who dropped everything at just six weeks' notice to get to Greece) totally understood and bought into the love and spirit of the ceremony. We didn't have an actual venue; just chairs under palm trees next to the sea. It was very beautiful.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I'd never been interested in boys, other than as friends, so I've never been straight. I guess I was about 17 when I realised I liked girls.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

My school was quite diverse anyway. We had a couple of openly gay teachers and individuality was encouraged. Lots of the kids were open about being gay and, with few exceptions, no one cared that much. I got more stick for being a goth than being gay - I spent my teenage years looking like Siouxsie Sioux.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?

My older sister. She thought it was marvellous and wanted me to take her to the Nightingale, as she'd heard it was fun.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

Life is short, so live every day as honestly and happily as you can. Don't hide your true self because

you're worried about other people's opinions - those people are not important.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?

Nope, I'm a 'gold-star'.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An actress or a police officer. I even tried out for the police force, but they thought I'd benefit from a year as a traffic warden first. No thanks!

How did you first get into DJ-ing?

I've always been passionate about music and clubbing (I was out with my older sister from 15). I'd DJ school discos and I befriended a DJ in an indie bar called Sinatras. He'd let me DJ for him every once in a while. Then I kept pestering the directors at the Nightingale to give me a go. It was a radical move to give me a set, as back then it was a members club with 90% male clientele. It all worked out peachy, though.

What's the most rewarding aspect of being a DJ?

People enjoying themselves on a night out and thanking me. It's great that I've been a part of people's social life for such a long time. I loved it recently when a guy told me that he'd met his now-husband on a night I was DJing. They'd had their first dance to the tune I'd played for them 12 years earlier. Sweet! And, of course, I don't have to get up early in the mornings, I can wear what I like and I get to drink vodka at work!

And the worst?

To hear what people are saying in a noisy club, I have to put my ear close to customers' mouths, so I often get covered in jäger-bomb fag breath. Yuck!

If you had one venue in the world in which you could DJ, which would it be?

The highest club in The Alps. I've DJed in ski resorts in France and Italy and they're crazy fun, so I'd love to do it again.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?

Alive?



Corey and Dani during their spiritual wedding in Zakynthos, Greece.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?

One of the gay boys from school took me to Partners on Hurst Street in 1992. I thought it was the friendliest, most fun-filled place ever.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I'll not do the whole 'too many to mention' thing; I'll pick someone. Craig Neale, my DJ 'little brother'. We've worked closely together at the Nightingale for about eight years. His grumpy, straight-talking attitude regularly has me in stitches. Plus, remember I've said I break equipment all the time? Craig is always on hand with electrical tape and a cable tie! He's got me out of many a sticky situation, and I'm proud of his DJ success at The Nightingale and The Village.

You DJ on both the gay and straight scenes. Are there differences?

Yeah, I'm resident at Velvet Music Rooms on Broad Street in Birmingham. It's the city's main straight party street so it's rammed with stag and hen parties. I think the main difference is that straight people don't go out clubbing as often as gays. They make more effort in their

appearance and spend money on more expensive drinks. This means you don't get the regular faces that you see on the gay scene, and not so much gossip.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

Social media and supermarket alcohol has had a massive effect on people's social habits. You don't have to go out to find out the gossip, it's on Facebook. Guys pull on Grindr so there's no need to venture out. People are partying at home!

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

I'd change the way people request songs! Don't ram your iPhone in my face and ask me to plug it into the decks and play your iTunes ... You don't go into McDonald's and ask them to warm up the pasty you just bought from Greggs!

Time Out

Where do you go on a night out?

As I work all weekend it's difficult to have a crazy night out. A nice meal out with my wife, then pubs in Harborne usually. Sometimes Sunday night cabaret at The Village Inn.

What do you do to relax?

We've just got a puppy, so I'm



enjoying getting out into the countryside for walks.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I'm a geek for quiz shows. I appeared on The Weakest Link about 10 years ago. It was a traumatic experience never to be repeated. And I'm the biggest Coronation Street fan.

What was the last album or track you bought?

For my own enjoyment? I don't actually listen to that much music that isn't for work. I'll be topping up my Christmas playlist this afternoon.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Greek Islands. I love hiring a scooter and getting out exploring. The Greek people are incredibly friendly and welcoming. That's why we got married there. No one batted an eyelid.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

iTunes, I guess. I'm not one for computers; I break them.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Toni Collette or Will Ferrell.

Who's your favourite author?

Jeffery Deaver.

Half-empty or half-full?

Half-full, let's be positive.

What's your favourite food?

Breakfast cereals.

And how about your favourite drink?

A nice new-world red wine.

Favourite Christmas song?

Underneath The Tree by Kelly Clarkson or Mary's Boy Child by Boney M.

If you could take a selfie with one person alive or dead, who would it be?

Well, it would be with someone alive. What kinda weirdo has a selfie with a dead person?! The Queen. She's a legend.

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What's On

MAGAZINE GROUP

THE UK'S LARGEST REGIONAL
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We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

CRIME Ex-Birmingham Mr Gay UK winner, now a policeman, found guilty of attack in gay club



A police officer who once won the Mr Gay UK competition while representing Birmingham has been suspended after being convicted of attacking a man in a gay club.

Gay Star News reports: 'Mark Carter, a police constable for West Yorkshire Police, was convicted of assault by beating at Manchester Magistrates court.

'Carter attacked another man in the toilets of The Thompsons Arms in Manchester's gay village.

'He was made the subject of a 12-month community order, told to do 250 hours of unpaid work and pay £100 compensation to his victim.

'Detective Chief Superintendent Clive Wain, of West Yorkshire Police, said Carter could lose his job after an internal hearing.

'West Yorkshire Police expects the very highest standards of its officers and staff, both on and off duty,' he said. 'Criminal behaviour or conduct which falls below this

standard will not be tolerated. We note the verdict of the court in relation to this officer. PC Carter remains suspended from duty ahead of an internal misconduct hearing.'

'Carter was awarded the Mr Gay UK title in 2006, and he posed in a mock police uniform at the competition.

'However, this is not the first time Carter has been in trouble with the law. In 2009 he was accused of two counts of sexual assault and raping a man in a Leeds hotel.

'Once the charges were dropped, Carter returned to the police force in 2011. However, he was then charged with possessing anabolic steroids, which he claimed he was using for medicinal purposes.'

PRIDE Coventry to host its first gay Pride festival in Summer 2015

The first ever Coventry Pride festival is set to take place next summer.

The Coventry Telegraph reports: 'Coventry is one of the only cities in the country which does not have its own Pride event, and organisers say it's "long overdue".

'Organisers of Warwickshire Pride, which has been gaining rave reviews since last year, have decided to stage Coventry's inaugural celebrations for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community at the newly opened Fargo Village creative quarter.

'The Leamington event has grown in popularity, attracting large crowds.

'Coventry's two-day festival in June 2015 will include performances from singers, dancers and artists, as well as hundreds of stalls and talks.

'Organiser Daniel Browne, from Warwick, runs Push Projects, which provides support and information for the LGBT community. He said: "Fargo Village approached me and we chatted about organising a Coventry Pride. There's a real buzz around the event already. It's long overdue, as Coventry is one of the only cities left in the country without a Pride event.

"It will be a family-friendly festival with all sorts of performances. We really hope that the Coventry and Warwickshire festivals will complement each other, being a week apart."

For more information, email coventrypride@hotmail.com or visit www.warwickshirepride.co.uk.

COMEDY Gay funnyman Alan Carr to bring new stand-up show to Birmingham in 2015



Gay BAFTA-winning comedian Alan Carr is heading for Birmingham next year.

The ever-popular laughter merchant and chat-show supremo will be visiting the Birmingham Hippodrome on 11&12 September with his brand new Yap Yap stand-up show.

Carr won a BAFTA for his hit Channel 4 TV series Chatty Man. He's previously sold out shows in the Midlands.

A big fan of the region, he's been spotted on numerous occasions in Birmingham gay venues, including The Loft Lounge. Tickets are now on sale and available from www.birminghamhippodrome.com

SPORT Nottingham male hockey team take a stand against homophobia in sport

With homophobia appearing to be rife in sport, the all-male hockey team from the University of Nottingham have decided it's time for change.

Stripping down to nothing, the boys showed just how unafraid they are to tell everyone that there is no place for homophobia in sport.



HEALTH Notts dentist's patients reassured by THT charity

Terrence Higgins Trust has moved to reassure the 22,000 patients recalled by NHS England following a Nottingham dentist's 'suspected breach of infection control standards'.

Dr Rosemary Gillespie, Chief Executive at Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "NHS England has confirmed that the dentist in this case does not have HIV."

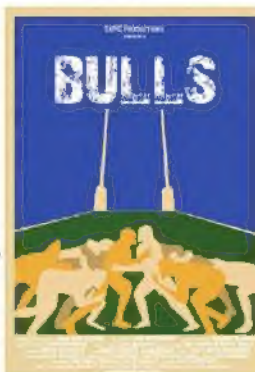
"We would reassure anyone who has been contacted that there is next to no risk of contracting HIV as a result of the breach of infection control standards."

SPORT Documentary about Birmingham Bulls rugby team to premiere in city's gay venue

A short film documenting gay rugby team the Birmingham Bulls is set to be shown for the first time this month.

The film is said to focus on one of society's biggest taboos - homosexuality in sport.

Through one-to-one interviews, the players explain why men move from 'traditional' rugby tournaments to gay rugby leagues. The film, entitled Bulls, will be shown at Birmingham gay venue Eden Bar on Friday 12 December at 8:30pm.



HEALTH Ex-Midlands MP Lord Fowler in call for decriminalisation of homosexuality to fight HIV

Former Sutton Coldfield MP Lord Fowler has called for the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world in an effort to fight HIV and AIDS.

Pink News reports that the former Tory Health Secretary asked a question of Baroness Northover, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for International Development.

In asking his question, he said: "Is not the worst feature of that figure of 35million people living with HIV around the world that half of them are undiagnosed, and the principal reason is that

people are prevented coming forward for testing because of the prejudice and fear that surrounds this area?

"As we approach World AIDS Day, will the Government renew their efforts to persuade a change of policy in the 80 countries around the world, several of which are in the Commonwealth, where homosexuality is still a criminal offence?"

After noting that the number of new HIV infections had fallen from 3.6million to 2.1million, Baroness Northover replied: "I start by paying tribute to my noble friend for his outstanding

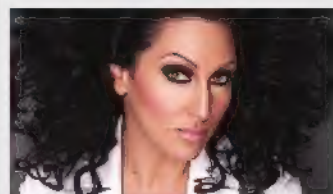
work in this field, and not least for his new book, which I have been reading with great interest - AIDS: Don't Die Of Prejudice.

"He makes a very strong case not only for action in the United Kingdom - which, of course, he led on and which I hope he will agree we have maintained - but for very active work overseas.

"It is by being inclusive, not stigmatising, and by making sure that prevention, treatment and care are all taken forward for everybody that we will indeed turn this around."

NATIONAL NEWS

SCENE RuPaul's Drag Race Battle Of The Seasons heads to Manchester in 2015



The hugely popular US TV show RuPaul's Drag Race is heading to Manchester next year and will feature eight of the series' most popular stars.

Battle Of The Seasons takes place on Sunday 12 April at Manchester's Ritz Nightclub. It will feature Adore Delano, Jinkx Monsoon, Alaska 5000, Ivy Winters, Sharon Needles, Manila Luzon and Pandora Boxx.

Joining the sassy queens is RuPaul judge Michelle Visage.

Battle Of The Seasons is set to be a truly bitchy night of fun. Tickets are on sale now from www.rupaulbots.com.

POLITICS Ivan Massow to run for Mayor of London

Entrepreneur and gay rights campaigner Ivan Massow has announced that he will be running for the position of Mayor of London in 2016.

Massow first rose to prominence in the 1990s when he offered financial services and insurance specifically geared towards gay people.

A member of the Conservative party for a number of years, he once defected to Labour to help them repeal Section 28. He later returned to the Tories.

Commenting on his decision to run for mayor, Mr Massow said: "I'm a Londoner, an entrepreneur and a campaigner, and I want to be London's next Mayor."

"I moved to London more than 25 years ago to start my own business - helping those discriminated against by financial services to access insurance and financial products - and this city has been my home and my passion ever since."

"As a campaigner against discrimination I know that there is nowhere on earth I would rather live than London."

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TCHAIKOVSKY'S SWAN LAKE

& Christmas Favourites

Conductor: Jack Lovell

Saturday 20 December 2014 7pm

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire B3 3HG

Book now at bgso.org.uk

Tickets

£10 / £8 in advance | £12 / £10 on the door
£30 Family ticket (2 adults 2 under-16s)

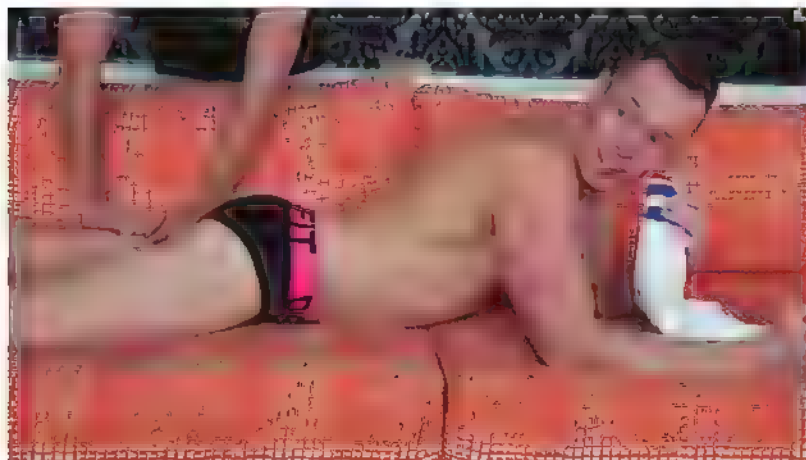


THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Davey Wavey alert! His Gay Man's Guide To Body Hair...



It's a question that runs through the minds of many gay men - should I be natural and let all the hair grow, or should I just get rid of it all? If you choose to be a hairless wonder, hot gay YouTube star Davey Wavey shows you how to do it: youtu.be/T9yGUfora4M

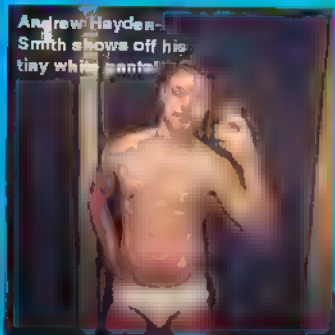
CHECK THIS OUT! Yanis Marshall and co 'Pump Up The Jam' in London city centre...

If you managed to catch Britain's Got Talent earlier this year, you'd have seen the incredible Yanis Marshall and his backing dancers, Arnaud and Mehdi. Well, the dance trio are back in London in this new video, dancing in high heels around Soho, Trafalgar Square and London Bridge tube station. They also manage to work in several quotes from classic comedy Absolutely Fabulous! vimeo.com/108937020

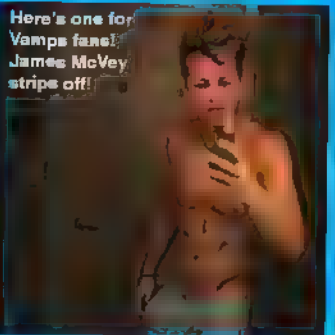
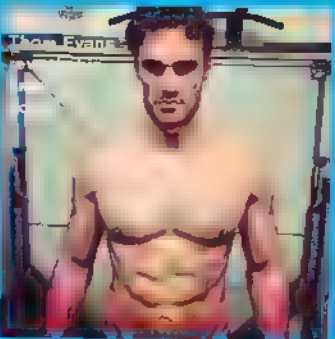


SNAP HAPPY!

Our favourite pictures from Instagram...



Andrew Hayden-Smith shows off his tiny white pants!



Here's one for Vamps fans! James McVey strips off!



A CAMP CHRISTMAS WITH JULIAN CLARY

Following in the footsteps of light entertainment icons such as Larry Grayson and John Inman, Julian Clary's humour comes complete with an impressive side order of innuendo. Julian's sure to be the source of much merriment this month when he appears as Dandini in *Cinderella* at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. Midlands Zone recently caught up with him to find out what the comedian/actor/author and panto veteran enjoys most about Christmas.

This is your fifteenth panto, Julian. What is it that draws you to this traditional form of seasonal entertainment time and time again?

Well, it's the one time of year that I get to be with a whole crowd of people, as opposed to travelling around on my own and sitting in a dressing room on my own, which I do the rest of the year. Also, I like that it's such a strange performance that you give in panto. You're telling a story to the children but also entertaining the adults. It's a play but it's not a play. It's not a cabaret and there's no fourth wall. You can mess around and it's just a mad, mad world. Also, I like spending the dark winter months in the theatre - all day and every day. It gets you out of the rear world.

Tell us about your Dandini?

I'm acting but I'm also being myself. Dandini is the Prince's right-hand man and they've had to swap clothes because the Prince wants to meet all of these ordinary girls. So I get to wear all the lavish costumes. Dandini guides the plot along - but apart from that, I'm just being myself. The great thing about panto is that you can never be accused of over-acting or wearing too much make-up.

What makes a great panto?

Magic. It's got to transport the audience and it's got to be jaw-dropping. Not too many distractions - I don't like pantos where people come on in the middle and do a twenty-minute act. It's all got to be plot-driven.

Do you have a favourite?

Cinderella - and I'm not just saying that because I'm in it. It has the best story and it's got the most magic in it. It's got the romance and it's got a lot of comedy with the Ugly Sisters. It's a winner all round.

Christmas for you - bah humbug or warm mince pies?

Warm mince pies. I like Christmas but I'm happy to be working throughout. I like Christmas Day - I get to go to my parents' - but then Boxing Day morning I have to leave to get back to the theatre, which I secretly like. I wouldn't want days and days of sitting around watching bad television. I'd rather be working.

A perfect festive companion from the past - who would you choose?

Queen Victoria. She'd do a fabulous Christmas, wouldn't she? And the setting would be lovely as would the clothes and the food. And I suspect she'd be quite good fun secretly.

And from Christmas present?

Joan Collins, who was in panto with a few years back in Birmingham. We've since become friends and she's good fun to be with. I've been to her house in the South of France. She's very good at entertaining and loves Christmas, so I imagine it would be very beautiful and very chic. I would imagine she has baubles from Cartier hanging on her tree.

In your advancing years, who would you like to spend Christmas with?

One Direction. All of them. In ten years, when they've calmed down, they'd be fun, wouldn't they?

Who would be your Christmas nightmare?

Nigel Farage, if he'd been on the sherry and did that awful laugh/grin/grace that he does. That would finish me off, I think.

Decorations - subtle or bling?

Actually, quite subtle. I have a big tree at home and all the decorations are pink. Is that subtle? Well, subtle bling then. There's no reason why taste has to go out of the window just because it's Christmas.

Will you still have the festive paraphernalia even though you'll be spending much of your time in the run-up to Christmas in Wolverhampton?

I will, even though I'm not there. I like to decorate the tree at home. My sister will be there, looking after the animals for me whilst I'm away, so she'll get to enjoy it. I always get my tree decorated horribly early.

Is Christmas a time for giving or receiving?

I give and receive, so it's both. I suppose giving is more important than receiving, but there's nothing much that I particularly want this year. I enjoy giving people something that will make them genuinely happy.

I'd like to spend Christmas with One Direction. All of them. In ten years, when they've calmed down. They'd be fun, wouldn't they?

You say you don't particularly want anything, but what would be your ideal gift?

I could do with some tupperware. I really could. I'm keen on tupperware, especially when you're doing panto and you can make your own lunch. I'd also like a kitten. I've wanted one for the past couple of years, but the request has been denied by my partner. As a meek kitten, that's what I'd like.

Turkey or Goose...

Turkey.

Favourite stuffing...

Can I say One Direction again?

Favourite Clary festive custom

I think it's much like anyone else's. We go to church, open our presents, drink sherry and eat sausage rolls. Nothing out of the ordinary.

So is your perfect Christmas the way you spend it now?

I like it as it is. I did spend one Christmas in Australia. I was on tour and I hated not being in England. I hated it being sunny. It's all a ritual over here. I like the repetition of knowing what I'll be doing at the same time on that day, and knowing we'll all be together. My parents are in their 80s and I've got nephews and nieces and great nephews and nieces, so there's quite a lot of us. But it's just good to be together, that's what's important.

What's your earliest Christmas memory?

I remember being at my grandparents' house in Norfolk and my favourite present was a little stuffed dog. We had a datsun named Monty and he got hold of it, thinking it was a dog toy and bit its head off. I was terribly upset.

You've touched on performing in Australia. How is your brand of comedy received down under?

Oh, they like it. They like a bit of fish in

Australia. They're nice, extrovert people. We understand each other, me and the Australians. They have a well-developed sense of vulgarity. It's a bit like in the south of England, people are a little bit reticent and introverted, whereas the further north you go, the more people are out for a good time. In Australia it's a bit like being in Glasgow every night.

You mentioned earlier about your parents, and going to church. How do they deal with your vulgarity?

It's all their fault. It all comes from them. I'm not immoral. I'm not the devil's work, so they cope quite well. My sense of humour is inherited, so they find it quite amusing.

You live in Noel Coward's house...

No, it's my house now.

Okay, your house. Is it true that you believe the house to be haunted?

There's supposed to be four ghosts wandering around. When I first moved in, the spirits were a bit disturbed and pictures started falling off the walls and people were getting locked in rooms. Then it all calmed down. I think that's sort of what happens. They get used to you, so there's not been much lately.

It's been a few years since you wrote your last book. Are there plans for any more?

I've just written a children's book which is due to be published next summer. I can't say any more than that because it's not been announced yet. It's a very beautiful story for eight to twelve-year-olds.

Were you commissioned?

No, it all comes from my imagination. I was quite a solitary child and used to make up stories about the neighbours for my own amusement. So I resurrected my inner child and wrote it from there. They've already asked me to write another one, so I reckon that's what I'll be doing after panto.

You've also got a TV show coming up for ITV1

Yes, Nature Nuts. It's about me going around the country and looking at some British wildlife. I go up to Scotland and find some pine martens, then I encounter some beavers, falcons and hedgehogs. It's been great fun and I had a lovely year going all around the country, not only meeting the animals but also the people who're interested in them. It was a very educational experience for me.

You've had a couple of successful stints in the West End. Is that something you'd like to revisit?

I'd like to. I loved doing that, and the routine of trekking into work and being part of a show with other people.

A book and a TV show. Anything else on the agenda?

I don't think I'll tour next year, but I'm quite interested in doing smaller cabaret venues. There's a place called Crazy Coqs in Piccadilly where I've just finished a week. It's nice to do intimate cabaret gigs. I'd like to do more of those. I've also written a play - a serious play that I might be putting on next year.

You can catch Julian in *Cinderella* at the **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** from Saturday 6 December until **Sunday 18 January.**

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Reality TV: Who's got the Strictly Come Dancing in the Jungle Factor?

Yep, it's that time of year again, when the UK's three biggest Reality TV shows go head-to-head for votes and viewing figures. We take a look at the top three favourites to win The X Factor, Strictly Come Dancing and I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! We've also listed the bookies odds, which are correct at the time of going to print. Oh, and our Editor's chosen his favourites too!

The X Factor



Fluer East

She's the bookies favourite and from what we've seen so far, we're not surprised!



Ben Haenow

This good-looking chap can certainly belt out a tune. He's our favourite to win!



Stereo Kicks

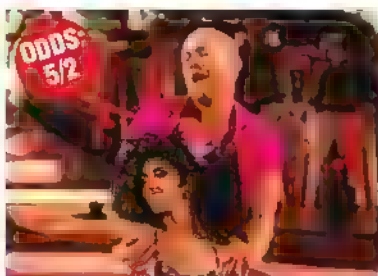
The eight piece group, especially formed for the show, are sure to be a hit with the teens.

Strictly Come Dancing



Pixie Lott

This singing beauty is the bookies favourite to win Strictly and, we have to say, ours too!



Jake Wood

Who'd have thought that this EastEnders bad boy was so good on the dancefloor?



Simon Webbe

Hunky Blue boy Simon Webbe has got the moves, but can he dance his way to the final?

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!



Jimmy Bullard

The former footballer is the bookies favourite and one to watch in this year's I'm A Celeb!



Melanie Sykes

The television-presenting beauty is second favourite to win this year. We love you, Mel!



Jake Quickenden

Fresh off the X Factor he's pretty darn hot too! Go Jake!

What d'ya want for Christmas?



'Tis the season to be jolly - but one of the most stressful aspects of Christmas is finding those perfect presents for your friends and family. Here are some of our favourite gifts - and hey, you might even spot something you fancy buying for yourself!

01 Beats Solo2 Headphones
Immerse yourself in an emotional experience. The Solo2 has a more dynamic, wider range of sound, with a clarity that will bring you closer to what the artist intended you to hear. Regardless of what kind of music you're into, you will feel the higher fidelity sound in your Solo2.
£219.95 www.apple.com/uk

02 DJI Phantom 2 Vision+ Drone
The Phantom 2 Vision+ features a 14 MP camera with integrated 3-axis gimbal designed specifically for use with the Quadcopter. Its flight control system has two computer-assisted flight

modes for you to choose from - and if the Quadcopter loses the signal, from the controller for any reason, the "return to home" feature will initiate. The DJI Vision App for iOS and Android smartphones provides many functions apart from just FPV monitoring.
£899.99 www.amazon.co.uk

03 GoPro HERO4 Black
Featuring improved image quality and a 2x more powerful processor with 2x faster video frame rates, the HERO4 Black takes GoPro performance to a whole new level. Incredible high-resolution 4K video and high frame rate

1080p video enable stunning, immersive footage of you and your world.
£369.99 www.gopro.com

04 Oloclip 4-in-1 Photo Lens
The new Oloclip lens system for iPhone 6 and 6 Plus features four advanced optics lenses. The pocket-sized system works on both the front and rear-facing cameras so you can let your photos and selfies run wild. The kit features four different lenses - fish-eye, macro 15x, macro 10x and wide-angle.
£59.90 www.amazon.co.uk

05 The Selfy Stick
The combination of an extendable monopod and Bluetooth shutter button make long-distance selfies and group shots a piece of cake. A must-have for any budding self photographer!
£14.95 www.theselfystick.com

06 Toshiba Chromebook 2
The next-generation Toshiba Chromebook 2 has arrived. Featuring Google's lightweight Chrome OS, plus a beautiful screen, this cheap laptop will suit all your university needs - and on a budget!
TBC www.toshiba.co.uk

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Earls Court - 266 Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 9HR

www.clonezone.co.uk



01 Philips SensoTouch 3D
Philips' most advanced shave yet, the Philips SensoTouch 3D RQ1275/17 shaver gives you the ultimate shaving experience. The GyroFlex 3D system follows every contour of your face, and the UltraTrack heads shave every hair in just a few strokes.
£250.00 www.philips.co.uk

02 Boxing Day Mashup Jumper
This cheesy Christmas offering is the must-have knitted jumper for the festive season! Not only is it designed and made in Britain, it also boasts more vibrant colours than Joseph's Technicoloured Dreamcoat and features

a mix of Rudolfs, snowflakes, Christmas trees, snowmen and candy canes! Now that's get you in the spirit!
£39.99 www.cheesychristmasjumpers.com

03 Smirnoff Fluffed Marshmallow Vodka
The world's number one-selling vodka brand has created decadent new flavours to offer adult consumers a line of premium spirits that are fun, sophisticated and cleverly wicked. Smirnoff Fluffed Marshmallow boasts a refreshing and airy scent that's met with the subtle sweetness of confection, qualities that exemplify the innocent side of

a favourite indulgent dessert.
£41.90 www.urban-drinks.co.uk

04 Big Face Pug T-Shirt
The Pug tee features the very personable pooch with the pushed-in face in prominent position. Representing a high point for the entire clothing industry, these t-shirts are the perfect union of high-quality, pre-shrunk garments and oversized images of animal's faces.
£19.99 www.firebox.com

05 Cartier Declaration
Declaration is a trail of passion led by an overdose of cardamom, locked up

in a streamlined bottle, palpitating like a heart waiting for love. A declaration of love. After an electric and intoxicating burst of cardamom, cedar wood emerges with its unrivaled balance and plenitude.
£48.50 www.theperfumeshop.com

06 The Sluts Mug
Everyone loves a novelty gift at Christmas, so why not buy your BFF this hilarious Sluts Mug to show them just how much you appreciate them? The small print reads "Even while I'm drinking this, I'm thinking about cock".
£6.99 www.clonezone.co.uk



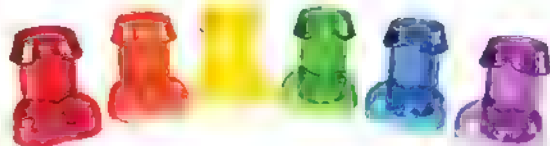
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07 Signature Collection Harris Tweed Satchel

For the man who has everything, why not splash out on this stylish and fashionable Harris Tweed satchel. Measuring approx. 44x32x6cm, this bag will pack most of your day-to-day items leaving you to strut off to work in style! **£175** www.next.co.uk

08 Dyson AM05 Hot + Cool Fan

This Dyson fan uses Air Multiplier technology to create a powerful stream of uninterrupted airflow. The fan heater heats rooms quickly and evenly, whilst in the warmer weather it cools you effectively. Perfect for any season where

you might be struggling with the weather! **£359.99** www.dyson.co.uk

09 Sunset Hot Air Balloon Ride

For something a bit different, why not treat your loved one to a romantic hot air balloon ride? Enjoy an hour-long flight in a top-notch Virgin hot air balloon that takes off from one of many places across the Midlands. **£249 for two** www.virginballoonflights.co.uk

10 Rainbow Willy Shot Glasses

There are two things that many guys on the gay scene love - willy and alco-

hol. So why not mix the two together and get these humorous rainbow willy shot glasses? There's six in a pack, so plenty to go round! Simply add your favourite tipple and you're good to go! **£8.99** www.clonezone.co.uk

11 Clarins Men's Grooming Essentials

Clarins offer the perfect beginner's skin care kit for men. The ClarinsMen Collection 'Grooming Essentials' kit contains ClarinsMen Super Moisture Balm 50ml, ClarinsMen Exfoliating Cleanser 125ml, ClarinsMen Smooth Shave 50ml and ClarinsMen Anti-Fatigue Eye Serum 10ml. All presented in a smart

wash bag **£38.00** www.selfridges.com

12 Sky Now TV

Unlock your TV and enjoy the latest movies you missed at the cinema, must see TV shows on 13 channels you won't find on Freeview, and live Sky Sports with no contract. You can also catch up on your favourite shows with BBC iPlayer, ITV Player, 4oD and Demand 5. Plus, add awesome apps like Sky News, BBC News, YouTube, Facebook and Spotify. **£9.99** www.nowtv.com

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An ideal Christmas present

DVD Box Sets



Calendars



Books



DVDs, from left to right

True Blood Series 1-7

Every episode from all seven seasons of the offbeat vampire drama, adapted from Charaine Harris's The Southern Vampire Mysteries book series by writer Alan Ball
£71.50 www.amazon.co.uk

The Big Bang Theory Series 1-7

All episodes from the first seven seasons of the geeky US sitcom
£29.99 www.amazon.co.uk

Peaky Blinders Series 1-2

Both series of the Birmingham-based 1920s gangster drama
£30.28 www.play.com

Game Of Thrones Series 1-3

Fifteen discs spanning the three series of the critically acclaimed and much talked-about fantasy drama
£53.93 www.play.com

American Horror Story Series 1-3

All 38 episodes from the first three seasons of the American horror drama
£42.15 www.amazon.co.uk

Calendars, from left to right

Warwick Rowers 2015

The Naked Rowers from Warwick University are back – and hotter than ever!
£12.85 www.amazon.co.uk

Tom Daley 2015

Getting better every year the official Tom Daley calendar is full of hot images of the Olympic diving champion!

£9.99 www.prowler.co.uk

Shayne Ward 2015

If you fancy a bit of Shayne Ward then be sure to pick up a copy of his smoking-hot calendar!

£9.99 www.amazon.co.uk

Red Hot 2015

If you're a lover of red-headed guys this is the calendar for you!
£25.00 www.gingerparrot.co.uk

Ben Cohen 2015

The hot rugby star and gay ally will keep you company in 2015
£27.99 www.prowler.co.uk

Books, from left to right

The Silkworm

Robert Galbraith
£9.99 www.amazon.co.uk

Out in the Army

James Wharton
£7.83 www.amazon.co.uk

Home Comforts

James Martin
£16.00 www.waterstones.com

Guinness World Records 2015

Guinness World Records
£10.00 www.whsmith.co.uk

A Year in the Life of Downton Abbey

Julian Fellowes
£7.45 www.amazon.co.uk

WATCH OUT!

01



02



03



04



05



Not everyone relies on their phone to check the time. Some of us still use a good old-fashioned watch. Here's a selection of some of our favourite timeless time pieces...

**01 Burberry BU9008
Stainless Steel & Leather
Watch**

Wear your style with confidence with this classically designed timepiece from Burberry. This understated yet classic design features a sophisticated black leather strap and a white, branded, patterned dial.
£295
www.selfridges.com

**02 Topman Wood Face
Watch**

This modern design is certainly different, featuring a classic brown watch with a wooden face and leather strap. The total length of the piece measures ten inches. Get this on your wrist to stand out from the crowd.
www.topman.com

**03 Adidas Originals
Santiago White Silicone
Watch**

Refresh your look with a sporty vibe. This cool, white silicone-strap watch is from the Santiago collection, and features a crisp, white dial with matte raised logo. Delivering effortless contemporary chic for everyday wear.
£55
www.hsamuel.co.uk

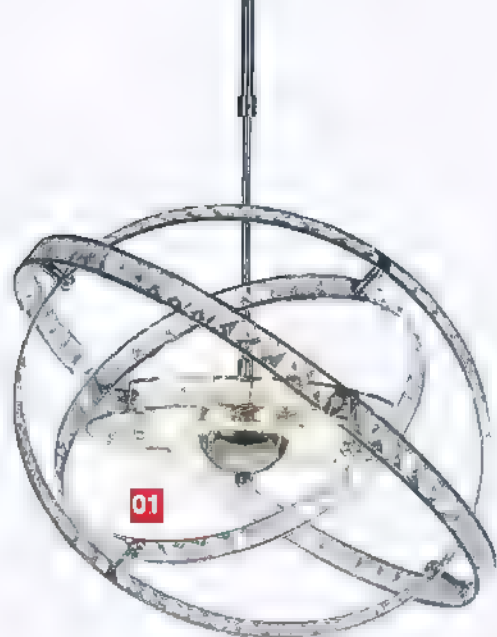
**04 Uniform Wares Black
Chronograph Watch**

This minimalist watch is made from top-quality black stainless steel and features a chronograph and date window. Not only that, the black leather strap features a traditional buckle fastening supporting the 4x4cm face.
www.harveynichols.com

**05 Oxygen Unisex Diver
40mm Atlantic Watch**

This unisex Oxygen Diver 40mm Atlantic watch is made from stainless steel and is fitted with an analogue quartz movement. It fastens to a multi-coloured fabric strap and has a blue dial. The watch also has a date function.
£119
www.watchshop.com

Have a Merry Little Christmas



01

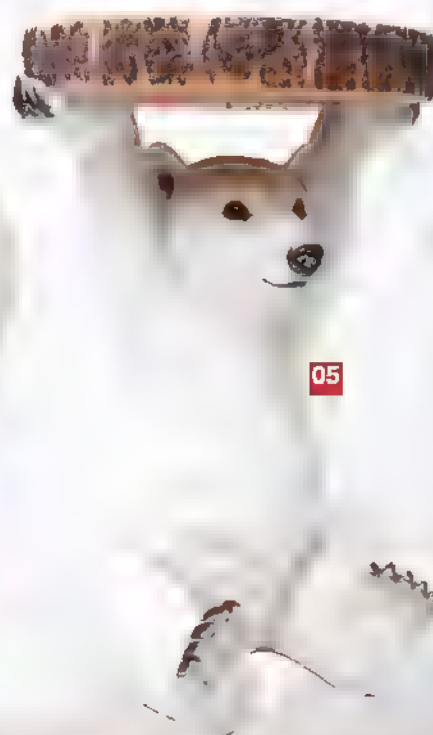
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04



05

01 Eternity Pendant
This modern, spherical pendant light fixture is made of three intersecting metal rings. It is available at a point of sale. £27.
www.midlandszone.co.uk

02 Laura Ashley Clock
This round, minimalist wall clock has a white face and black hands. £50.
www.midlandszone.co.uk

03 Set of 2 Neilson Mirrors
This pair of gold-colored square mirrors is made of metal. £40.
www.midlandszone.co.uk

04 All The Gifts (2x) Dinner Set
This set of two dinner plates is made of ceramic. £40.
www.fesco.com

05 Polar Bear Side Table
Look who's hiding under the bedside table - or serving drinks depending on how you use it. This quirky side table will be a quirk addition £115.
www.frenchponey.com

WIN!

WIN! Tickets to see Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra

This month sees the return of Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra with an extremely festive show featuring Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and a whole host of Christmas favourites.

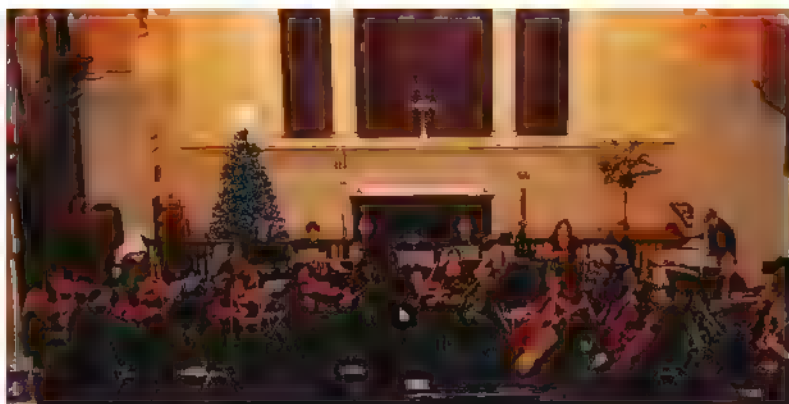
Performing on Saturday 20 December at Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham, the gay orchestra will be delighting fans from across the Midlands.

We've got two pairs of tickets to give away. Simply visit our website and answer this question for a chance to win.

Swans are protected by who?

- A) The Queen
- B) The King
- C) Alan Carr

Competition closes on Wednesday 17 December

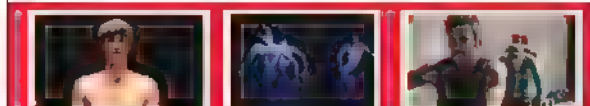


Visit www.midlandszone.co.uk to enter!

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

DECEMBER 2014



RU PAUL'S
**LATRICE
ROYALE**
STIRS IT UP IN THE
MIDLANDS

JAKE QUICKENDEN

The hunky X Factor star hits Birmingham

INSIDE...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Your essential guide to what's hot'n'happening at a gay venue near you this Christmas

XXL: BEAR'S PARADISE

The manly event returns to the Midlands for some men-only festive fun...

HELLO 2015!

Say goodbye to 2014 and welcome next year in style with New Year's Eve parties across the Midlands

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

just got BIGGER!

NEW!
RESIDENT
HOST
MISS MARTY
EVERY MONDAY

PLAY ALONG
WITH MARTY...
QUICK FIRE BINGO PARTY
GAMES & GIVEAWAYS
GALORE FROM 10PM!

FREE ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!
10PM - 3AM

Fabulous

Join Birmingham's award-winning Marty -
'The Girl That Likes to Party' -
EVERY MONDAY from 10pm

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER
**GLITTER
LIPS**

PLUS: The ALL NEW
Happy Hour from 10pm
PLUS drinks from 5! ALL NIGHT!

Barbie Bombs - Just £1.50
Buy 2 Large glasses of
House Wine and get the rest
of the bottle free!



MONDAY 22 DECEMBER
**VICKY JACKSON
AS PINK**



C:21



THE GIRL WHO LIKES TO PARTY MARTY

Monday nights at Shrewsbury's C.21 find Birmingham's award-winning Marty - The Girl That Likes To Party presenting a top evening of songs, fun and quick-fire bingo to keep the punters entertained when they're not strutting their stuff on the dance-floor! There's even a brand new happy hour from 10pm, with drinks from as little as £1 - so you have no excuse!



WEDNESDAY

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99. Until 24th December

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am
MISSING BAR

MINISTRY OF POUND

Monday's a good night out in Birmingham's gay village, so pop down to Missing Bar for drinks from £1 and great music blasting from the speakers, wonderfully mixed by DJ Mike Emery.

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Cash prizes and free drinks. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH MRS MILLS

Higher? Lower? That's the tricky decision you have to make every Monday at The Village Inn, as Mrs Mills and DJ Craig bring you their hilarious version of Play Your Cards Right. Pop in and have a go!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1 on selected spirits. £1.50 Jagerbomb. Caring Strongbow. Sambucca.

SHOCK

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS

Monday Madness
DJ Mike Emery

BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS

Monday month

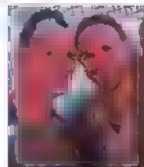
BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The Girl who likes to party). **Mon 1 Dec** - Live cabaret with Gitter Laps. **Mon 22 Dec** - Live cabaret with Vicky Jackson. Free

admission before midnight
C.21, SHREWSBURY

**GET THE PARTY
STARTED** Free admission with DJ Foxy Divine. Open 5pm-4am
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT



SHILLAX links DJ Shawn on the
THE WHITE HART, WALSLEY

SHILLAX
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

THE MONDAY CLUB

Monday Madness
DJ Mike Emery
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

SHILLAX

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

WEDNESDAY

2 TILL 2 Open from

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO 7pm-midnight
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

Vodka & Shotz £4.00
Red Bombs £4.00
Caring Strongbow £2.00
Vodka & Mixer £2.00
Bottle of Blossom Hill £10.00

Winter Wonderland

DJ PARM & DJ Rowan
with a hint of the best Christmas classics

Saturday 20th Dec & Boxing Day

8pm

Free Entry

SIDEWALK

125 Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 6SE
T. 0121 6666220

Management reserve the right to alter prices to ensure responsible drinking.

WWW.SIDEWALKBIRMINGHAM.COM

'90s NIGHT

The '90s was a good decade. It gave us the Spice Girls, Take That and many more great artists we all know and love. Quite possibly, it was one of the best decades EVER. That's why the team at The Nightingale in Birmingham host a '90s Night every Tuesday, from 10.30pm through till 3am. So pop down and celebrate the era most of you were probably born in!



90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99 Until 24th December

MIS-SING KARAOKE With your host DJ James Party starts at 9pm till late
BRISTOL BAR

FESTIVE MENU AT SIDEWALK

When you're out with your mates or work colleagues for a Christmas do, you might want to stop and try Sidewalk. They're doing a festive three-course menu for £19.99, and are running the offer through until Christmas Eve!



TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny Songs, Games & Prizes. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

TACKY TUESDAYS

The Village Inn hosts Tacky Tuesdays every, er, Tuesday, with Charlotte The Harlotte and Miss Penny. Expect fun galore as the pair bring you a great selection of entertainment. Pop down to win some great prizes!

CHRISTMAS QUIZ - Tues 9 Dec -

THE FOX

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT

BREWERY TAP WORCESTER

SAMMIE'S SINGERS

THE WHITE MARY, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

CARD

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT

BREWERY TAP WORCESTER

SAMMIE'S SINGERS

THE WHITE MARY, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

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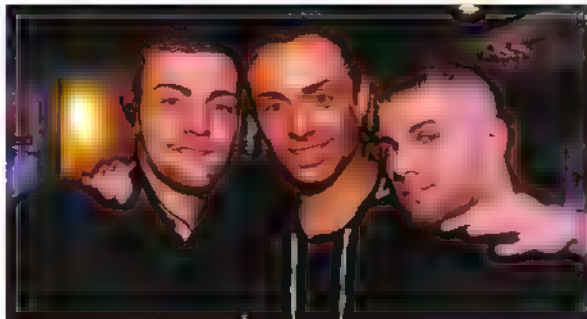
RAINBOWS COVENTRY

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

RAINBOWS COVENTRY

Moving and shaking down at Brum's Bar Jester



Looking to finish your night out with some wild partying? Then look no further than Bar Jester in Birmingham!

Cherub and the team are on hand till the early hours to make sure you're having a great night out, serving you some pretty cheap drinks during Happy Hour. So if you're out celebrating and don't want the party to stop, Bar Jester is the place to be.



More great photos on **facebook**

[facebook.com/brumsbarjester/](https://www.facebook.com/brumsbarjester/)

NEW YEAR'S EVE lets you bring in 2015 in style!

It's one of the biggest, if not the biggest, nights of the year. That's right - it's New Year's Eve!

It's the one night of the year where we can all get together and celebrate the same thing. Then, at the stroke of midnight, we see in the New Year by singing Auld Lang Syne and kissing the stranger standing next to us...

Check out the listings below to see what's happening at a gay venue near you!



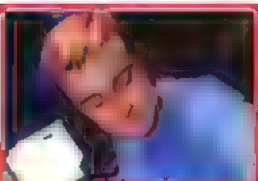
BIRMINGHAM

2-4-1 COCKTAILS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you want to start your night out with a cocktail or two, then pop into The Loft Lounge on Bromsgrove Street. Here, you'll find the fantastic team making some tasty cocktails. And the best bit? If you pay for one, you get one free!

THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE



2 GOOD 2 MISS

It may only be the middle of the week, but that's no reason to stay in! Pop down to Birmingham's gay village for a night out at Missing Bar and a spot of clubbing with DJ Mike Emery.

MISSING BAR - BIRMINGHAM

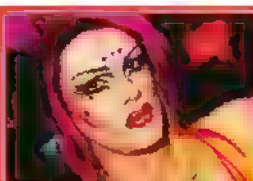
2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery
MISSING BAR

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlotte
THE VILLAGE INN

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY - Wed 24 Dec - with Marty live on stage
THE VILLAGE INN

CHRISTMAS EVE TIPPLES - Wed 24 Dec - Pop in for a quick tipple before Santa arrives
BETWILK

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Wed 24 Dec - Christmas Eve Party
MISSING BAR



THE C FACTOR

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte The Harlotte at The C

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER - Wed 31 Dec - New Year's Eve Giltz & Glam with free champers for the best dressed. Free admission all night
SIDEWALK

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99 until 24th December
BETWILK

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Wed 31 Dec - Party on down to the hippest place in town and join in with the New Year celebrations
THE LOFT LOUNGE

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Wed 31 Dec - Free party all night with DJ Mykee
MISSING BAR

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - Wed 31 Dec - Bring in the New Year at Eden Bar. Free admission all night
EDEN BAR

PIMP & HOE - Wed 31 Dec - NEW YEAR'S EVE £7 b4 11pm. £10 after. Free welcome drink for everyone before 11pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DIO CHRISTMAS PARTY - Wed 24 Dec - Christmas Eve Karaoke Party - DJ La Queefa
THE FOX

DADDY'S DRINK AND FREE POOL - Wed 31 Dec - Free pool and drinks
THE FOX

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - Wed 31 Dec - with DJ Daddy and DJ La

THE FOX

FREE POOL AT BRUM'S FOX BAR

If you want a chilled-out evening with your mates, be sure to head down to The Fox in Birmingham. It's here that Andy and the team let you play pool for free - so bring along a gaggle of pals and set up a mini-tournament!

THE FOX - BIRMINGHAM

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - Wed 31 Dec -

Drinks promos until 2am
BAR JESTER

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Halle James with Hour until 2am Open
BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE

Wed night
THE WELLINGTON

CAMP THEATRE with S

Link promos Wed 3 Dec - W
BT Quiz 7pm Wed 17 Dec - Big
Christmas Quiz Wed 24 Dec - N
Wed 31 Dec - N
Shawn D
Moses and Doll Mixes
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

WEDNESDAY LINE

WEDNESDAY LINE

Live DJs and promotions free
re 10pm 14 d
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaoke & James Open 9pm-midnight
BETWILK, BIRMINGHAM

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool 1pm - 2am Drinks from £2
Karaoke & DJ 5pm 7pm 2am
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 11pm - 1am Free
10pm 8pm 11pm Free
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

- Wed 31 Dec - with Son Of A

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

OUT

NG1, NOTTINGHAM

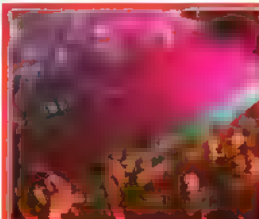
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

EVERYONE'S OUT AT NG1 IN NOTTINGHAM!

If you're out in Nottingham, head to NG1 for a night of £1 drinks until 5am! It's free entry. If you're a student, so you can't even moan if you're on a tight budget!

NG1 - NOTTINGHAM

WEST MIDLANDS



NEW YEAR'S EVE

If you're in Stoke-On-Trent for New Year, then the only place to be is new gay club Gossip! They've got limited tickets for just a fiver, are open for 13 hours and have five DJs throughout the day

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Wed 31 Dec - Tickets £5 (limited) 5 DUs, open 13 hours

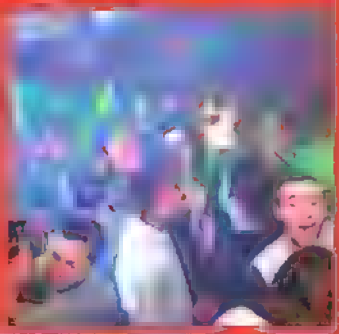
GOSSIP, STONE ON TRENT

CHRISTMAS EVE parties across Birmingham

If you love Christmas, then you might want to head out on Christmas Eve.

There are plenty of parties being held in Birmingham, at venues such as Missing, The Village Inn,

And who knows, if you do end up popping out, you might bump into Santa and his big sack on the way home!



THE 90s GET POUNDED with like Quickenden in Style

Thursday evenings are one of the best times of the week to head down to Birmingham's gay clubs. It's the night when all the students come out to play! One of the most popular Thursday venues is The Nightingale, with great music and great drinks from £1. And on Thurs 18 Dec, hunky X Factor and I'm A Celeb star Jake Quickenden is on hand to get you all worked up!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99. Until 24th December
SIDEWALK

I ♥ THE 90s with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm
EDEN BAR

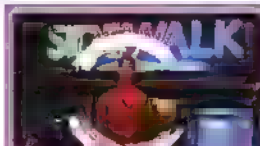
THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20

bombs With DJ Mykee. Closed Christmas Day. Thu 25th Dec
MISSING BAR

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend. £1.50 on all bombs excluding the Gutterbomb with our resident DJ Rowan. (Closed Xmas Day Thurs 25 Dec).
SIDEWALK



DROP THE BOMB SIDEWALK

If you're out with your mates on a Thursday night and love a Jagerbomb or two, then pop into Sidewalk in Birmingham where they sell them for just £1.50 all night. They have a wide variety of Bombs for you!

MISS MARTY'S MADHOUSE

Songs. Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano
THE VILLAGE INN



POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor. Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. - Thurs 18 Dec - Jake Quickenden (I'm A Celebrity) appears in the flesh
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DADDY'S DOLLAR KARAOKE

THE FOX

10-11pm
12-1am
1-2am
2-3am

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP KARAOKE

THREE FURNACES, Telford

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE

THE LION, WALSALL

GET OUT

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

MOSES MADNESS

10-11pm at 0 Harduke
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

POP 69!

10-11pm
12-1am
1-2am
2-3am

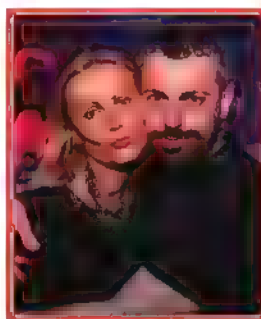
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2

for a
atmosphere
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

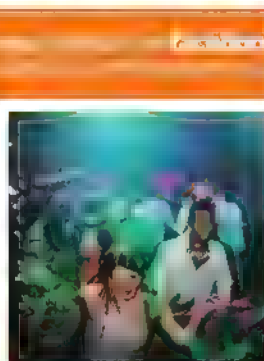
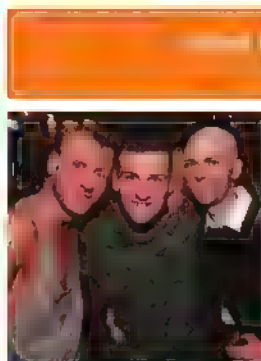
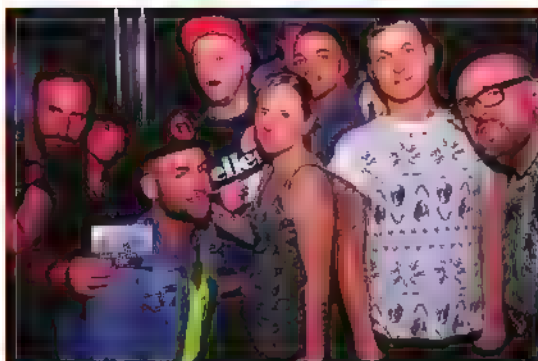
It's time to get down and dirty at Club Chic...



One of Birmingham's best nightclubs gets better every week!

We're talking about Club Chic, on the cusp of Birmingham's Gay Village. A popular place that attracts a great crowd of people to its dancefloor the venue lets you party until the sun rises.

So if you're a party animal, this is definitely the place to be!



THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB
THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER

POUNDED

WITH
JAKE
QUICKENDEN

£1
DRINKS

THATS A
BIG SNAKE

LIVE CABARET at award-winning Birmingham bar

Every Friday night sees a different act take to the stage at award-winning Birmingham cabaret bar The Village Inn. The line-up regularly features some of the UK's best drag talent, and this month is no exception. Fri 5 sees Miss Penny visiting, Fri 12 brings Kelly Wilde to the stage, and Fri 19 sees Gilder Lips putting in an appearance. Sandra wraps up the month on Fri 26 December, which of course, is Boxing Day!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES - DJ Pam takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too! **SIWALK**

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing S. DJ James. Open until the early hours. **MISSING BAR**

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BRUM'S EDEN BAR

It's Christmas, and it wouldn't be right if there wasn't a Christmas party or two being held! That's why on Friday 19 December Eden Bar are hosting their very own do, raising money for AB+.

EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Fri 19 Dec - Free admission. Bring along a £5 gift for the g/t exchange. Sit on Santa's Knee charity raffle for AB+.

EDEN INN

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikk. **EDEN BAR**

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU - 3 courses for £19.99. Until 24th December. **EDEN**

FREAKY FRIDAY with DJ Lofly. Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 5 Dec** - Miss Penny. **Fri 12 Dec** - Kelly Wilde. **Fri 19 Dec** - Gilder Lips. **Fri 26 Dec** - Sandra. Happy Hour 12noon - 8pm. **THE VILLAGE INN**

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.

EDEN BAR

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday. **THE VILLAGE INN**



LIP GLOSS - Fri 5 Dec - Annual Lip Gloss Pageant. **EDEN BAR**

MIDSBARS - Fri 19 Dec - Christmas Party - monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers. **EDEN BAR**

OLD SKOOL GARAGE - The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

SAATHI RETURNS TO THE NIGHTINGALE

The monthly club night for the Asian LGBT community and their friends returns to The Nightingale Club on Boxing Day (Fri 26 Dec), featuring heaps of Bollywood and Bhangra tunes for you to enjoy. **NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM**

SAATHI - Fri 26 Dec - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikk. Every Friday - your chance to win cash. **EDEN BAR**

SO IT GOES - Fri 26 Dec - Boxing Day Christmas Party night. With Clinton Shaw, Ric James, Felton Joe Hunt, Lisa Shared, Alice PA from Kaisha Smith. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

WINTER WONDERLAND - Fri 26 Dec - Festive themed party. Christmas cocktails, prizes for the best Christmas outfit. **SIWALK**

XXL - Fri 19 Dec - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month. **THE COKE CLUB**

ANNUAL XMAS BAR CRAWL - Fri 12 Dec - Christmas jumpers & hats must. **THE FOX**

BOXING DAY - Fri 26 Dec - Hat giveaway. **CLUB CHIC**

FUNK'D UP - alternate Saturdays. Dribbling funky voca, house. 11pm - 1am. £5 + 2am £8 after. **CLUB CHIC**

KARAOKE - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. **THE FOX**

RETRO FRIDAY - DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 9pm - until very late. **BAR JESTER**

WINTER WONDERLAND - Fri 19 Dec - lineup of DJ. **CLUB CHIC**

WEST MIDLANDS

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at **THE GREENHOUSE, DARLASTON**

BANG - The big weekend party. **THE LION, WALSALL**

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promos.

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS - Start your Friday off right. **THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE**

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with []

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

I ♥ HOUSE - Fri 12 Dec - with res.

GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

KARAOKE with DJ Shawn a. **Fri 19 Dec** - **Kyle Tr**. **Fri 26 Dec** - **DJ I**. **THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON**

LUSH & YOLO!

GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON



START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde cabaret show from 9pm. **PINK, STOKE ON TRENT**

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy, current chart. **BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER**

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT with []

HELSENI, LEICESTER

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

VALUE FRIDAY []

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

THE VETERAN SPORTS PUB []

NG1, NOTTINGHAM

It's a man's world at XXL in Birmingham's Coko Club!

All you men who like men out there should be sure to drop by XXL on the third Friday of the month (Fri 19 Dec). It's a great night that attracts men from right across the Midlands. With resident DJ Christian M playing the latest and greatest dancefloor fillers, you'll be partying alongside bears, otters, cubs... you name it, they'll be there! It's a fiver to get in, and there are drinks offers all night long. A night not to be missed!

THE COKE CLUB



The Village Inn

DECEMBER

GREG

5TH DECEMBER

Miss Penny

12TH DECEMBER

Kelly Wilde

19TH DECEMBER

Glitter Lips

23RD DECEMBER

Miss Penny

CHRISTMAS EVE

Miss Marty

BOXING DAY

Sandra

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

NYE PARTY

FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT



VILLAGEINNBMINGHAM



@VILLAGEBRUM



THEVILLAGEBMINGHAM

LATRICE ROYALE works it at Birmingham's Nightingale Club

As part of The Nightingale's ongoing line-up of RuPaul's Drag Race stars, this month sees fierce queen Latrice Royale take to the Birmingham stage on Saturday 20 December. She's featured alongside the likes of Sharon Needles, Chad Michael, Phi Phi O'Hara and Boy Is A Bottom star, William. We don't quite know what Latrice has in store for all of you RuPaul fans just yet, but judging by The Nightingale's previous RuPaul events, you certainly won't be disappointed!

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM

DJ DAN TAKES YOU BACK TO THE '80s

If you fancy turning back the clock thirty-odd years, head down to Eden Bar in Birmingham, where DJ Dan takes it back to the 1980s. Expect some of the biggest tunes from the decade, not to mention cheap drinks promotion! **EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

80S HITS - with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info: 0121 622 4256
MISSING BAR

BACK TO THE 80S 2am-4am
EDEN BAR

DOUBLE DJ FUN AT THE VILLAGE INN

Every Saturday night at The Village Inn you're treated to not one but two great DJs to dance the night away with. Join DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon for some of the biggest party anthems and floor fillers.



THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open till 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back

home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE NIGHTINGALE

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham. You've got three floors of partying, spilt across four great rooms of music. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

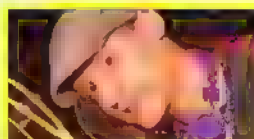
FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99. Until 24th December
MISSING

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
MISSING

L8R With Charlotte the Harlot. Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

LATRICE ROYALE - Sat 20 Dec - Chunky yet funky Latrice Royale appears live on stage
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

QUEENS OF POP - Sat 20 Dec - Live on stage to celebrate Eden's Christmas Party
EDEN BAR



SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY AT MISSING

Join DJ Mykee every Saturday for a great night of music and a fantastic party atmosphere. There's an appearance from the glamorous Twiggy too - and sexy topless dancers! It's a worth popping in just for that!

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am
MISSING BAR

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
THE LOFT LOUNGE



SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ playing the best of everything
SPRINT

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

WINTER WONDERLAND - Sat 20 Dec - Festive themed party. Christmas cocktails, prizes for the best Christmas costume
SIWALK

BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sat 13 Dec - with DJ [unclear]
THE FOX

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday
CLUB CHIC

DJ NIKKI 15+
MISSING

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm
THE FOX

DJ RITA'S LEAVING DO - Sat 6 Dec - Farewell to DJ Rita, plus DJ [unclear] and present
THE FOX

FOX CUBS XMAS PARTY - Sat 13 Dec - Mother and Toddler Group
THE FOX

#JUST SAYING Get in the party
MISSING

MISSING

KARAOKE Every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

WEST MIDLANDS

BIG NIGHT OUT Big DJs for tunes 8pm-3.30am. Plus
THE LION, WALSALL

CABARET - Sat 20 Dec - KY
BOND STREET TAVERN, WOLVERHAMPTON

CAMP & SLAG 9pm-6am. Drink
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until before 10pm
THE THREE FORKAGES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION with big names from Birmingham & UK. Live
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

SHAWN TILL 4am Live cabaret at 12.30am. **Sat 6 Dec** - Iain Fox. **Sat 13 Dec** - Son Of A Tune. **Sat 20 Dec** - Kelly Wilde. **Sat 27 Dec** - Par

THE WHITE MART, WOLVERHAMPTON

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

CLUB NIGHT V. [unclear]
midnight
HELIX HQ, LEICESTER

QUEENS OF POP return to Birmingham for Christmas

Birmingham's Eden Bar is playing host once more to controversial Mancunian drag duo The Queens Of Pop. Shooting to fame when they released their YouTube parody of Atomic Kitten star Kerry Katona, they've always been a big draw at Eden Bar. We suggest you get down there early and grab the best seats in the house. Enjoy, boys and girls!

EDEN - BIRMINGHAM



GOSSIP!
GOSSIPSTOCK.CO.UK

COME CELEBRATE WITH US...

VIP PARTY BOOTHS | CHRISTMAS PARTIES | PRIVATE HIRE

**TEXT 'GOSSIP PARTY' LIMO & PARTY PACKAGES
TO 07841635915**

MON | THUR | FRI | SAT - 5PM-4AM SUNDAY - NOON-2AM

**NEW YEARS EVE
2014**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ONLY £5

13 HOURS

5 DJ'S

**LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS
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5 Hope Street | Hanley | Stoke-on-Trent | ST1 5BT

Facebook: [www.GossipStoke](#)



Twitter: [@GossipStoke](#)

LIVE CABARET at The Village Inn with Mrs Mills & DJ Deano

If you're a big fan of cabaret and Friday night at The Village Inn wasn't enough for you, fear not - the popular Hurst Street venue hosts cabaret on Sunday nights too! This month's

cabaret line-up are: Mrs Mills (Sun 7 Dec), Ebony Kruger (Sun 14 Dec), Kate (Sun 21 Dec) and Champagne Shirley (Sun 28 Dec) Plus, it's happy hour till 10pm!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikka. Every Sunday **EDEN BAR**

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU 3 courses for £19.99 Until 24th December **SIDEWALK**

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS

Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny! on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm **THE LOFT LOUNGE**



SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am Just £7.95 Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95 **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

SUNDAY SESSION & LIVE CABARET with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm **Sun 7 Dec** Mrs Mills **Sun 14 Dec** Ebony Kruger **Sun 21 Dec** Kate **Sun 28 Dec** Champagne Shirley Happy Hour 12noon-10pm **THE VILLAGE INN**

SUNDAY DINNER AT SIDEWALK IN BRUM

If you're a little hungover from your Saturday night out, might we suggest you get yourself down to Sidewalk in Birmingham and tuck into a roast dinner? It's the perfect cure! **SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM**

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast! for only £6.95 **BRUMMITY**

CHILL OUT **THE FOX**

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY **BAR JESTER**

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £5 **THE WELLINGTON**

WEST MIDLANDS

CHILL OUT After the party **RAINBOWS, COVENTRY**

SMOOTHIE BAR **THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON**

GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE PENNY LUNGE **LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL**

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RANDOM PARTY NIGHT

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

SUNDAY ROAST Served from 2pm **THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON**

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB Brunch or £5 with mixed soft drinks, m

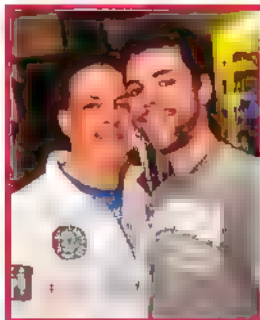
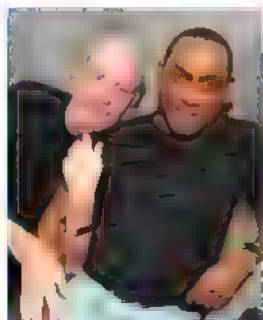
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE WITH T 9pm-2am

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

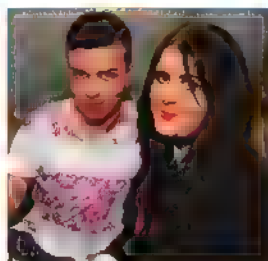
There's a real sense of community down at Equator



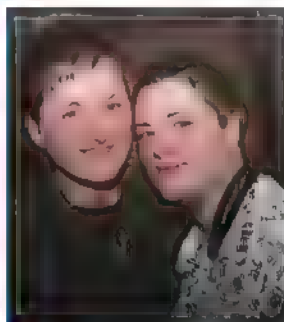
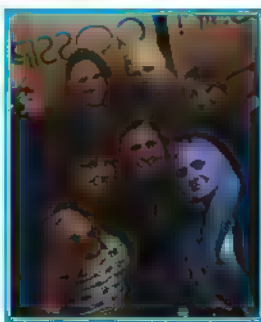
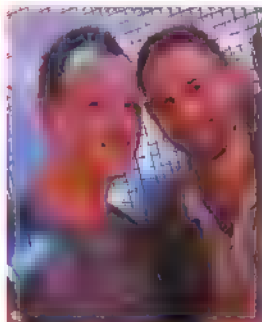
Not all the bars in Birmingham's gay village are thumping with music. Some are a bit more chilled-out, allowing you to relax with your mates over a pint. One such bar is Equator - a great place that attracts a real y d verse crowd. Why not pop in and say hi to Debbie and the team.



More great photos on **facebook** www.equatorbar.co.uk



Have you heard the **Gossip** in Stoke-On-Trent?



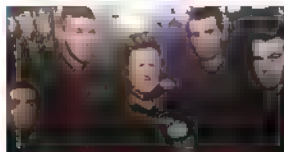
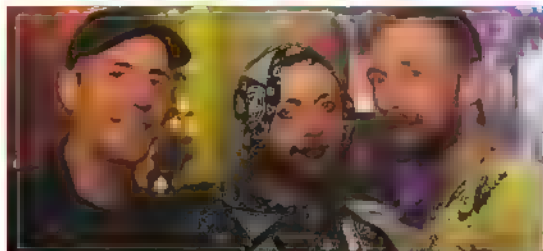
We popped to the Potteries last month to check out the latest bar & club on Stoke's gay scene.

After the recent closure of popular venue The Factory, Gossip has sprung up to fill the gap. In fact, it's brought to you by the very same team!

Despite the venue being slightly smaller, it still packs a punch and the atmosphere is outstanding. It has numerous bars, a great dancefloor and a balcony for you to perve over Smoker? Check out Gossip's huge smoking area at the rear.

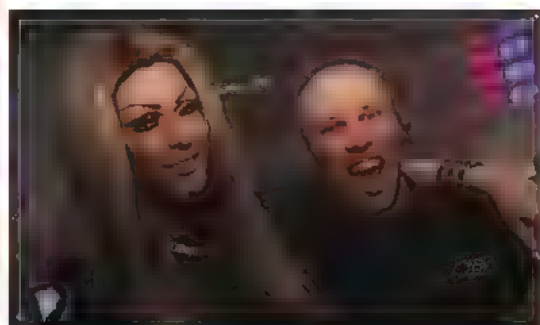
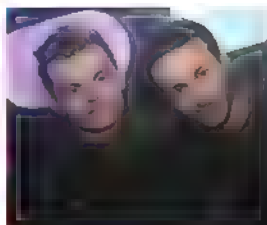
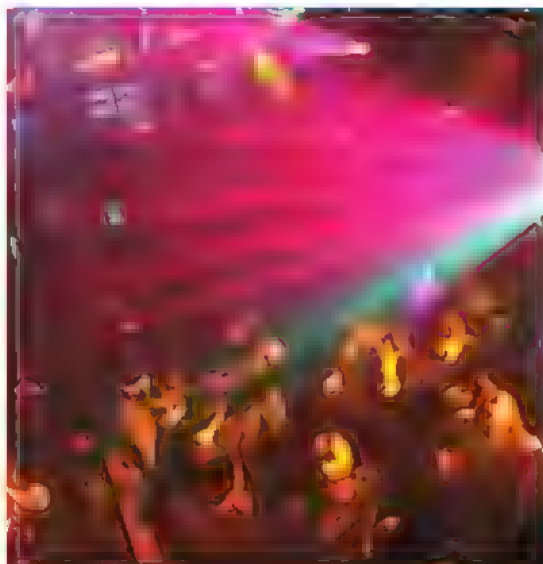
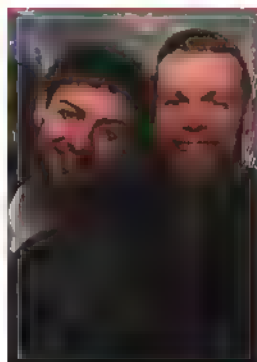
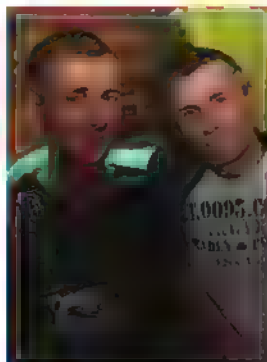
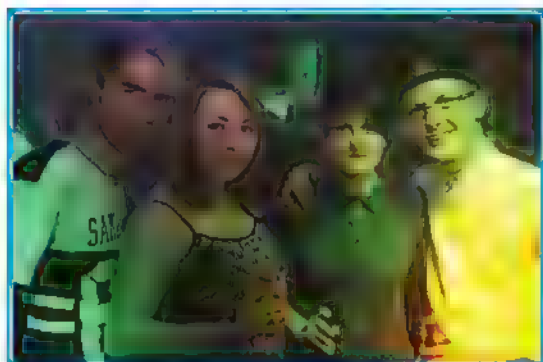
Be sure to pop in and say hi to Marc and the team

www.gossipstoke.com



More great photos on **facebook**

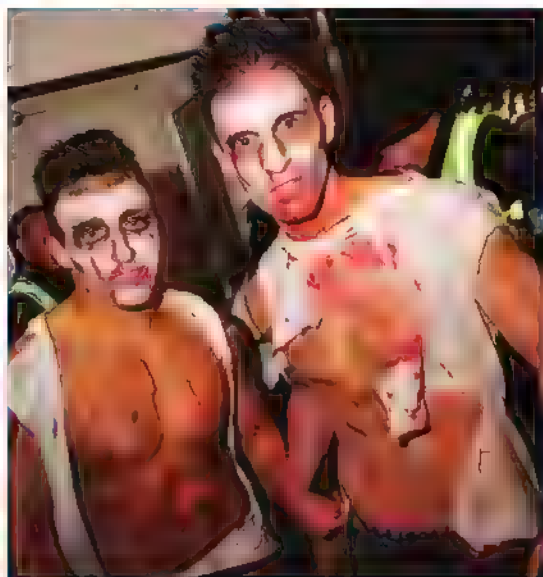
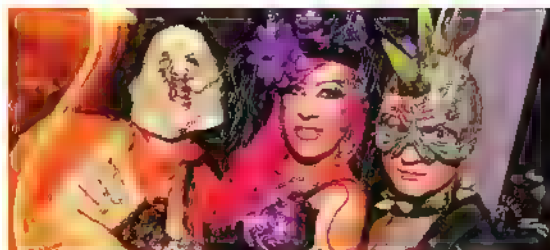
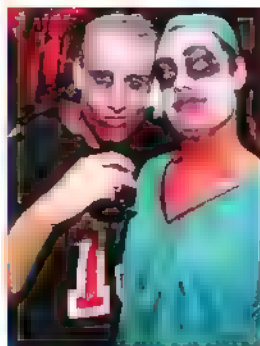
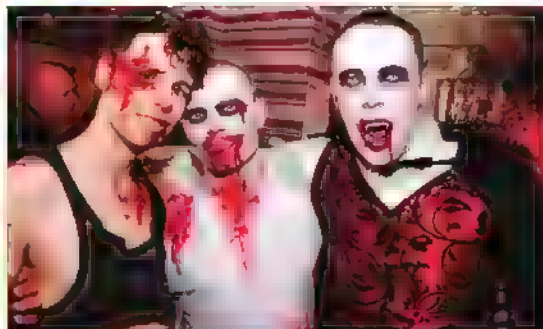
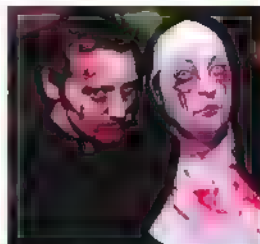
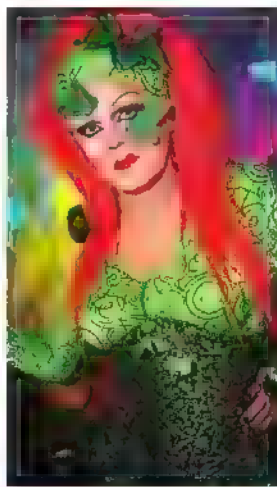
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Something spooky happened this Halloween

Halloween is one of our favourite times of year - and this year was no exception!

We took a trip into Birmingham's gay village to see how creative people were being with their fancy dress - and boy, they didn't disappoint! Here's a small selection of some of our favourites from bars and clubs across the Brum gay scene!



Pictures by Laura Byrne

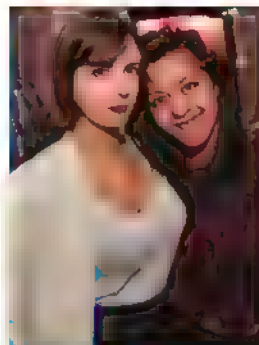
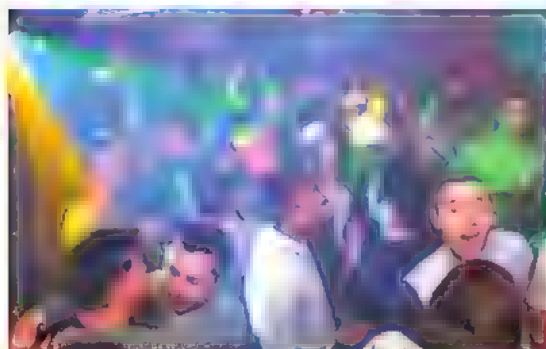
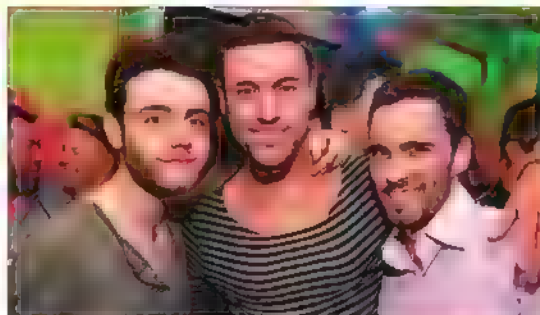
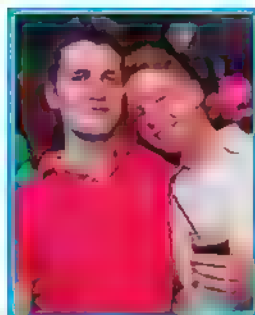
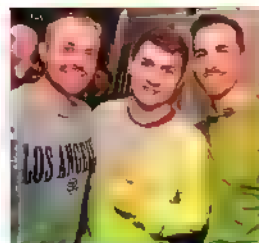
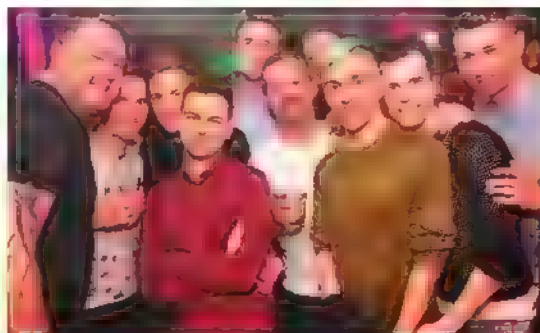
Plenty to enjoy at Birmingham's Village Inn

One of Birmingham's most popular gay venues is The Village Inn, located right in the heart of the city's gay village.

There's always plenty going on there - from Tacky Tuesdays with Charlotte The Harlotte and Miss Penny to singing & talent contest The C Factor every Wednesday

Of course, the most popular evening is Saturday, when hundreds descend on the award-winning venue for a great night out with some hugely talented DJs

If cabaret's your thing, then be sure to pop in every Friday and Sunday night too, when you're guaranteed a g g g e or several!



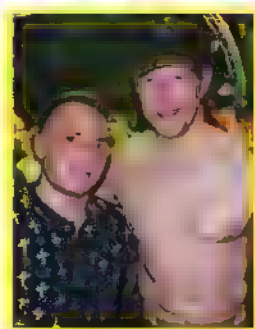
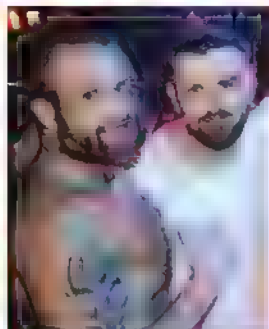
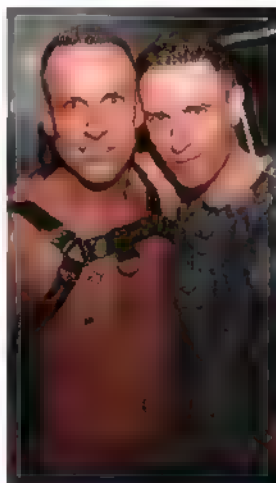
XXL: Boys will be boys at Birmingham's Core Club

The third Friday of every month sees one of London's biggest gay club nights turn up on Birmingham's doorstep. That's right, we're talking about XXL!

Taking place at the Core Club on Shercock Street in the city's gay village, the event attracts hundreds of horny men looking for a great night out. And that's what you'll find as soon as you walk through the club's doors.

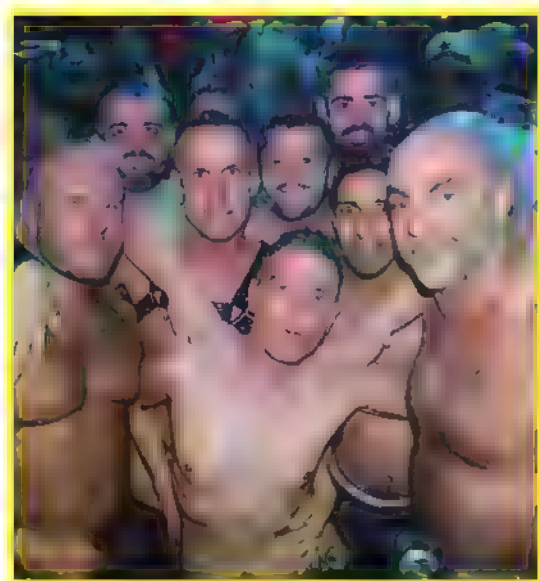
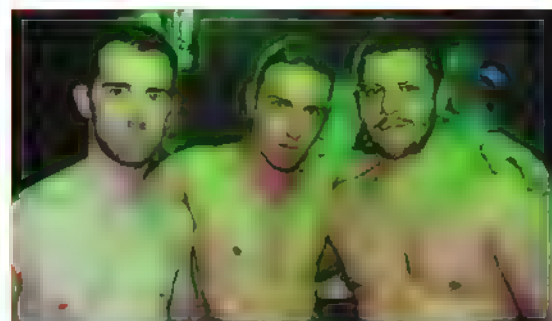
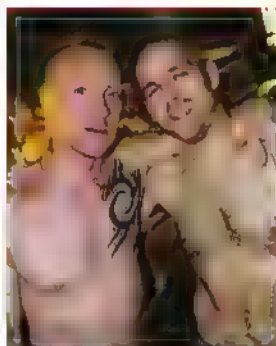
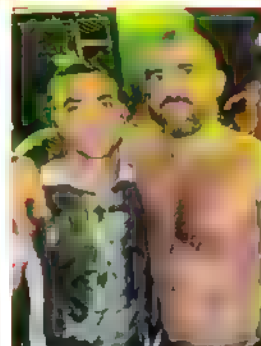
With top notch music from resident DJ Christian M and great drinks offers at the bar, you'll be on that dancefloor all night long looking for Mr Right. Oh, and if you want something a bit more playful, just take a trip upstairs to the dark room.

www.xxl-london.com



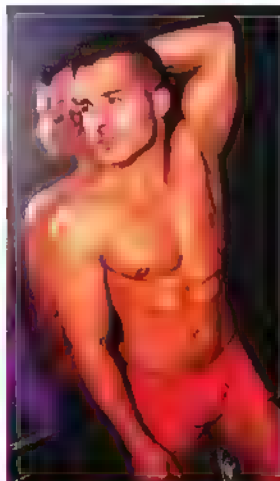
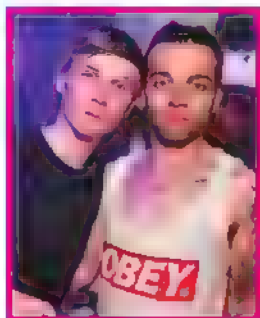
More great photos on [facebook](#)

[http://www.midandszone.co.uk](#)



Photography: Anthony Collins

Drinks, dancing and dudes at **The Nightingale**



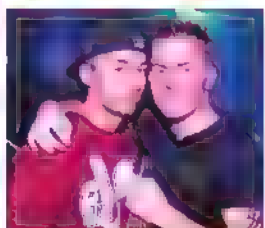
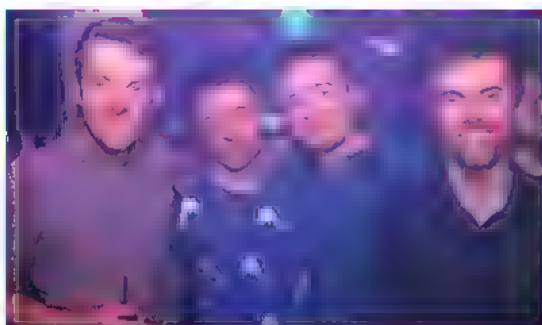
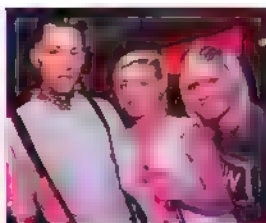
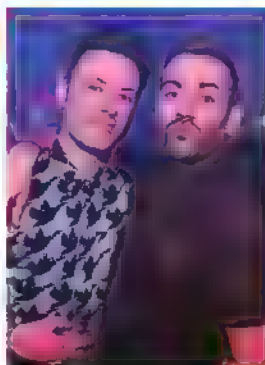
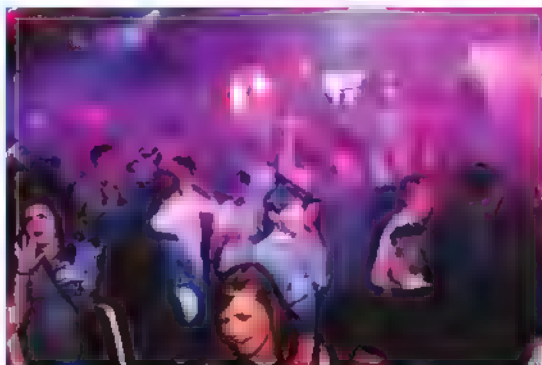
If you're buzzing for a mega night full of drinks, dancing and hot guys (and girls, of course!), look no further than Birmingham's very own gay superclub, **The Nightingale**

As one of the biggest gay venues in the UK, The Nightingale is spread across three floors and offers four rooms of music

If you love a commercial dance, head to the main floor. If you love cheese as much as we do, may we suggest the middle floor for live cabaret from Marty?

And for those who love the music hard and fast, be sure to check out the top floor - it's the place to be

www.nightingaleclub.co.uk



Sidewalk's a great place for pre-club drinks!

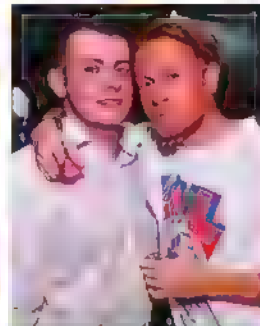
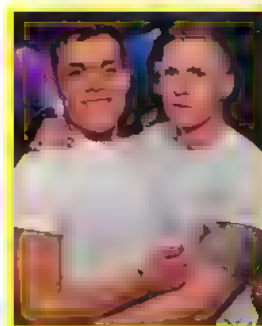
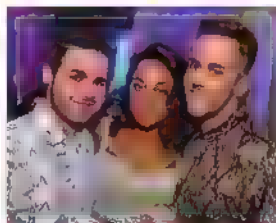
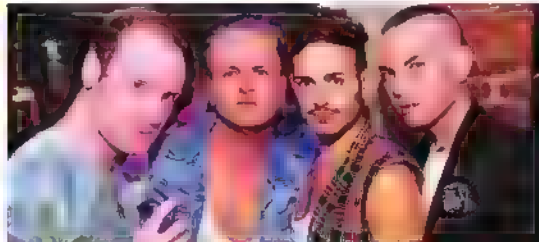
If you're heading out in Birmingham's gay village to party with your mates, then take a trip to Sidewalk on Hurst Street to get your night started!

Sidewalk's most popular nights are, of course, Fridays and Saturdays, with hundreds of punters visiting the venue in search of a great night out.

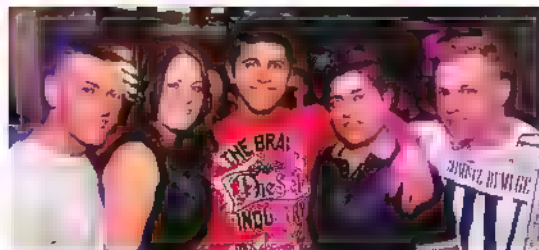
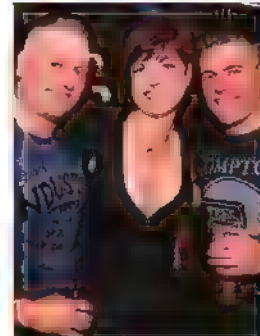
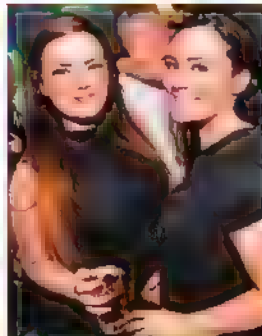
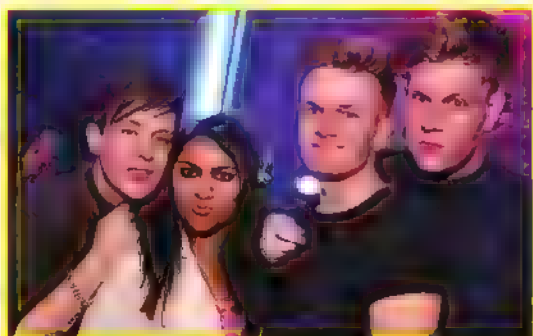
The bar offers a fantastic range of drinks at amazing prices - so whether you're on a budget or not, Sidewalk really is a must visit destination!

Why not pop in and say hi to the ever-friendly team and see what all the fuss is about!

fb.com/SidewalkBirmingham



More great photos on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SidewalkBirmingham)



Pictures by Laura Byrne



SIDEWALK
BAR & RESTAURANT

Life is short
are
FOREVER

GLITZ & GLAM
WEAR YOUR FINEST BLING

FREE BOTTLES AND GLASSES OF
CHAMPAGNE TO THE BEST DRESSED

DJ PARM AND DJ ROWAN
CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
COMPLEMENTARY DRINKS VOUCHERS
WILL BE FLOWING ALL NIGHT

FREE ENTRY
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Wednesday 31st December
125 Hurst St, Birmingham, B5 6SE



THE ONLY
SO ICE

NYE
WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

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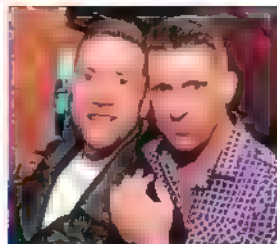
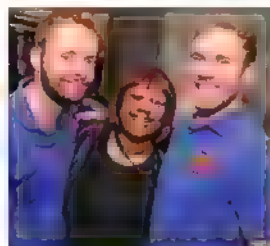
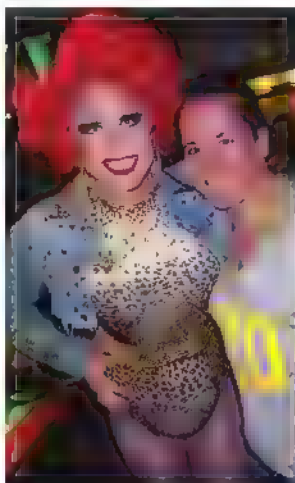
You're guaranteed a great night out at **Eden Bar!**

Eden Bar in Birmingham's gay village is one of many venues that make the city's gay scene so vibrant and diverse. It's a popular place too, attracting hundreds of men (and their female pals) every weekend.

The bar, which is run by gaffers Garry and Cal, has won multiple awards because of its great atmosphere, fantastic music and glorious gaggle of loyal customers.

If you've not been to Eden yet, swing by and see what all the fuss is about. We're sure you won't be disappointed!

www.theedenbar.co.uk



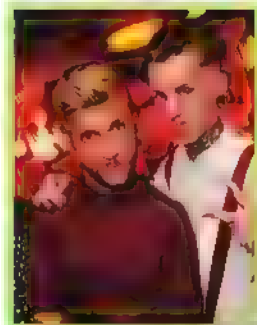
Pictures by Laura Byrne

It's a fabulous party paradise at Missing Bar!

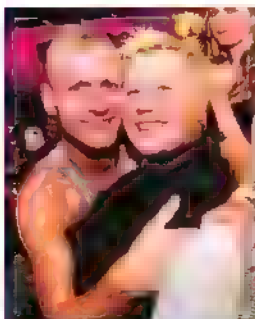
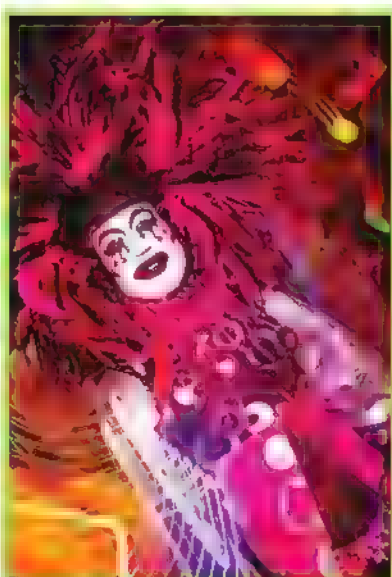
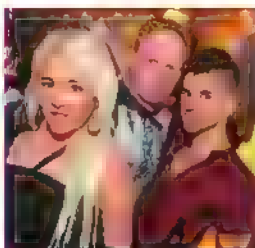
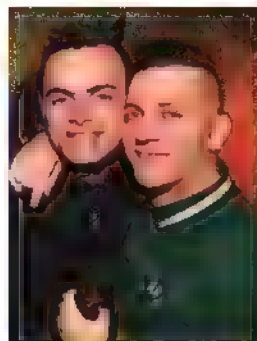
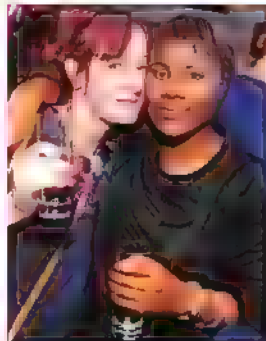
The next time you're out with your friends in Birmingham's gay village, be sure to swing by Missing Bar, where they'll show you how to party!

It's not just at weekends that you'll have a good night out at Missing Bar. Patsy and her team have a great line-up of things going on throughout the week, complete with a whole host of talented DJs. Saturday night is probably the busiest night, when visitors get to enjoy a fantastic playlist of music from DJ Mykee and cheeky humour from resident host Twiggy!

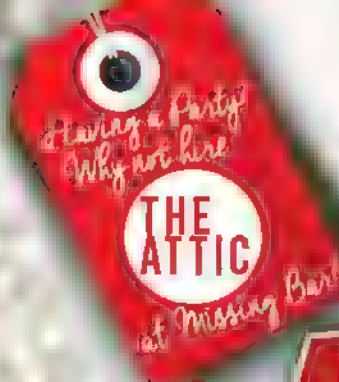
www.missingbar.co.uk



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facebook.com/midlandszone



Pictures by Laura Byrne



New Year's Eve

**FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT!
WITH DJ MYKEE**

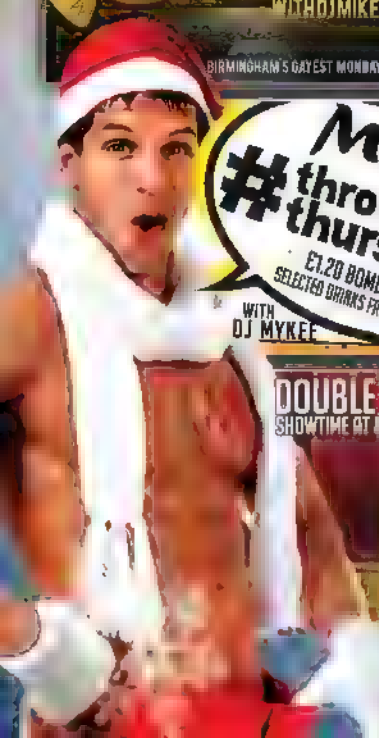
**OPEN ALL OVER CHRISTMAS (EXCEPT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY!)
7 DAYS TO PLAY, 7 NIGHTS TO PARTY!**



**EVERY MONDAY NIGHT
£1 DRINKS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY**
BIRMINGHAM'S GAYEST MONDAY NIGHT PARTY!

**TUESDAY NIGHTS
WITH DJ JAMES**

Wednesdays are...
2 GOOD 2 MISS!
WINE & SPIRITS
£2
PINTS & LUNCH
£2.60
£2



**Missing
#throwback
thursdays**
£1.20 BOMBS &
SELECTED DRINKS FROM £1.50
WITH DJ MYKEE

**BIG
GAY
Friday**
WITH DJ JAMES

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
PARTY**

**DOUBLE CABARET
SHOWTIME AT 8.30PM & 10.30PM**
**MISS PENNY'S
SUPERSIZE
SUNDAYS**

Missing

MISSING BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE STREET, SOUTH-SIDE,
BIRMINGHAM, B5 6NU CALL: 0121 622 4256 EMAIL: INFO@MISSINGBAR.CO.UK

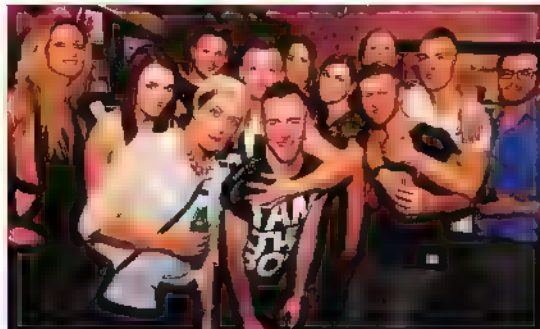
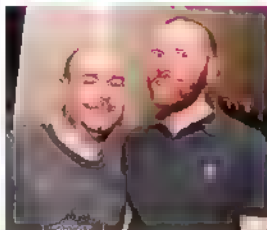
The Loft Lounge: A stylish way to start your night

If you're looking for a way to start your night in style, then may we suggest you pop into The Loft Lounge, right in the heart of Birmingham's exciting gay village...

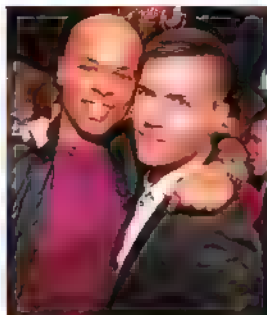
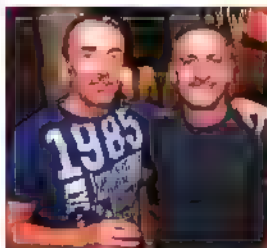
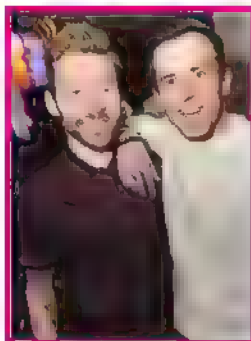
Whether you and your mates want to relax with a cocktail or two or, alternatively, start your night with a tasty three-course meal from an extensive winter menu, The Loft Lounge will make your wish come true

It's a great way to start the night before moving on to another bar or club. And with DJ Simon Baker hosting his Saturday Sessions, you'll soon be in the mood for a party night out you'll never forget (or might not remember!)

www.theloftlounge.co.uk



More great photos on facebook
[facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk)



Birmingham

BAR JESTER

Holloway Circus
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB

Lower Essex St B3 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6868

CLUB CHIC

28 Horse St B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE

Sherlock St B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk
f /thecoreclubbirmingham

EDEN BAR

Sherlock St B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
f /eden.bar
See pictures on page 44

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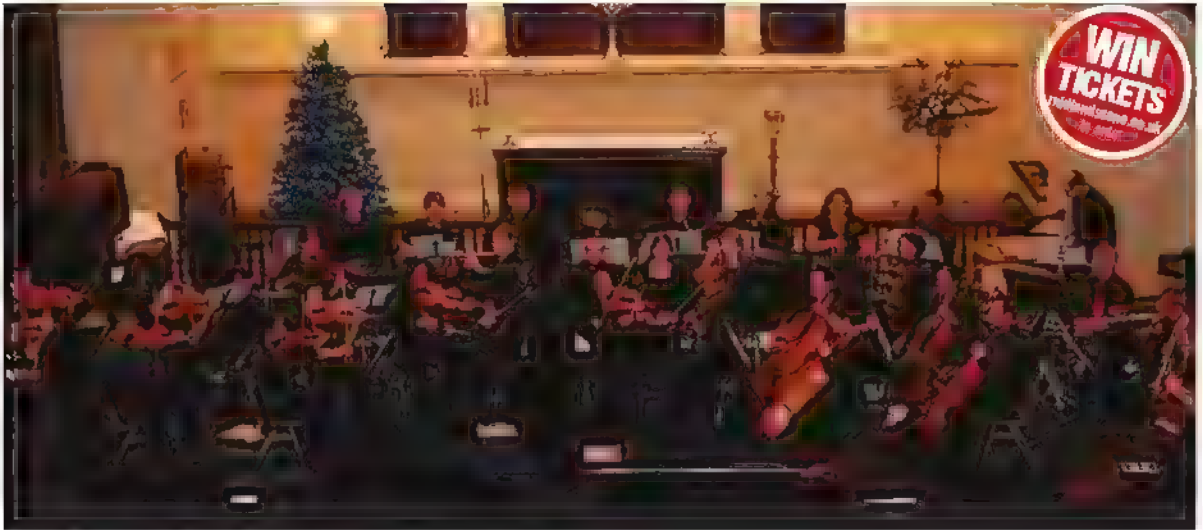
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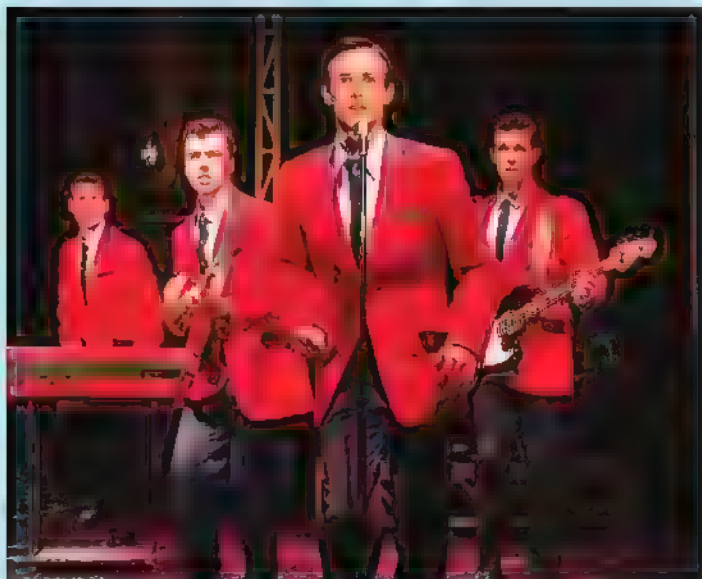


Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra

The highly rated Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO) here make a welcome return with a show that should ensure their region of fans leave the Adrian Boult Hall at the end of the concert in a suitably festive mood. Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake forms the centrepiece of the evening with conductor Jack Lovell unleashing the legendary classical work alongside a whole host of Christmas favourites.

If you've never encountered BGSO before, this concert provides the perfect opportunity to check them out. And if you play an instrument yourself, why not consider getting involved (well, assuming they've got a vacancy, of course)? The orchestra don't hold auditions, they just require that you're brimming over with enthusiasm for music and are ready to make lots of new friends.

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham, Sat 20 December



Jersey Boys

Rockin' and rollin'. New Jersey boys Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s, with best-known numbers including Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry and December 1963 (Oh, What A Night). This massive jukebox musical tells their story. Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band.

The Tony, Olivier and Grammy award-winning production is visiting the Midlands as part of its first ever UK tour.

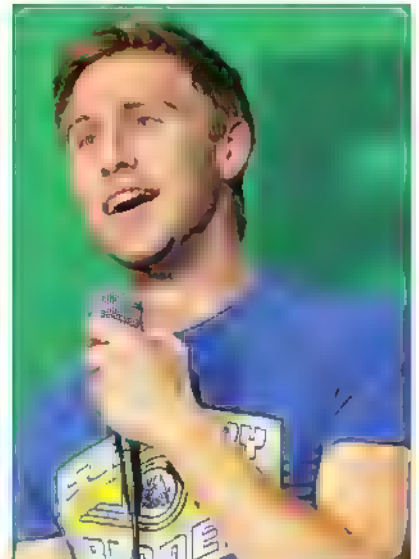
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 9 December - Sun 4 January

Russell Howard

According to his mother, Russell Howard reveals his comic style calls to mind a child telling people about his day at the zoo. And in fairness, Mrs H's assessment is a pretty accurate one.

Gags include, "A Levels are getting easier, in my day you had to do fifty questions in a minute and if you got one wrong they killed your dad!" and "Anyone else wonder if the Queen ever props her quilt cover up to her neck whilst in bed and says 'Look Phil, I'm a stamp!'"

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sunday 21 December





Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens

This dramatic and emotive musical theatre piece, composed of free verse poems and songs, reflects the lives of people who have lived with and died from AIDS.

Each poem represents a character who has died from AIDS and their story. The songs reflect the feeling of the living, the people who have felt the loss of so many friends and loved ones.

This hard hitting piece of musical theatre is nothing like you have ever seen before, with performers from all walks of life, from high end commercial theatre principles through to college graduates and students this piece really does appeal to all walks of life!

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 December



Hark! The Rainbow Voices Sing!

Always good value for money, the ever-busy Rainbow Voices choir are here presenting their first Christmas concert in over a decade - so if you fancy a seasonal singalong to a whole host of much-loved carols, make sure you bag yourself a ticket asap.

Proceeds from the concert will go to Singing Medicine, an award-winning project delivered weekly by Ex Cathedra to wards at Birmingham Children's Hospital. The project enables children with life-limiting conditions to participate in singing activities and experience the wider benefits of singing.

All Saints Centre, Kings Heath, Birmingham, Sat 13 December

★ Join the Midlands' brightest LGBT choir for our first Christmas Concert in over 10 years... ★

HARK! The Rainbow Voices Sing!



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TICKETS
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by Bob Russell
and by Janet Webb

Thurs 11 & Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm

This dramatic and emotive musical theatre piece, composed of free verse poems and songs, reflects the lives of people who have lived with and died from AIDS. Each poem represents a character who has died from AIDS and their story. The songs reflect the feeling of the living, the people who have felt the loss of so many friends and loved ones. This hard hitting piece of musical theatre is nothing like you have ever seen before.

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Wolverhampton

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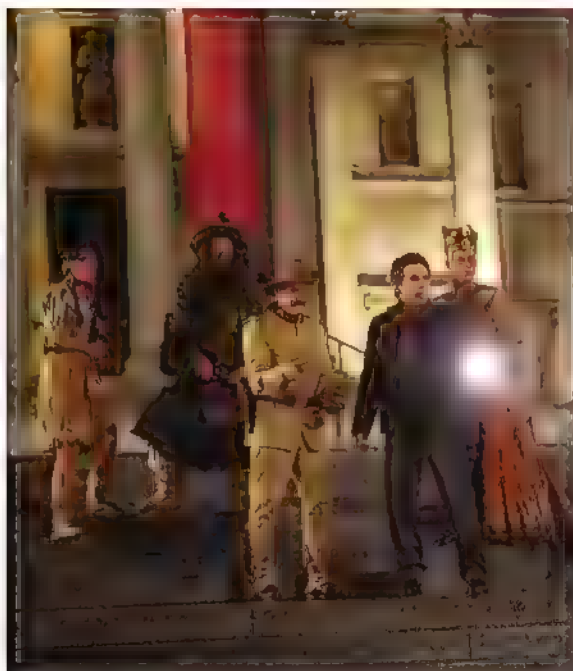


The Circle (Der Kreis)

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring Matthias Hungerbühler, Sven Schelker, Marianne Sägebrecht, Stefan Witschl Directed by Stefan Haupt (Switzerland)

Ernst Ostertag and Robi Rapp were the first same sex couple to be married in Switzerland, back in 2003. Here, now in their eighties, they relate to camera how their relationship flourished in Zürich in 1956, at a time when adult homosexuality was not a criminal offence. In fact, as one talking head puts it, Zürich had "practically one leg in New York". But things were to change, and *The Circle* details the backlash against the liberal idea. The younger Ernst and Robi are played by Matthias Hungerbühler and Sven Schelker in the dramatised bulk of the film. Unfortunately, Hungerbühler gives a somewhat wooden reading of Ernst, a portrayal that reflects the rather flat delineation of Stefan Haupt's film. It seems a missed opportunity. Although the story contains all the true-life dramatic potential of *Pride*, *The Circle* fails to either stir or excite. **Out 12 December**



Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb **CERT tbc**

Starring Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson, Dan Stevens, Ben Kingsley, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais, Mickey Rooney Directed by Shawn Levy (USA)

After voicing Alex in *Madagascar 3* and before embarking on *Zoolander 2*, Ben Stiller slipped in this sequel to *Night At The Museum 2: Battle Of The Smithsonian*. This time the former security guard Larry Daey embarks on a round the world trip in an effort to save the magic powers of The Tablet of Ahkmenrah. Sadly, this comic sequel was to be the last film for both Robin Williams and Mickey Rooney. **Out 19 December**

Get Santa

CERT U (102 mins)

Starring Jim Broadbent, Rafe Spall, Kit Connor, Stephen Graham, Ewen Bremner, Jodie Whittaker Directed by Christopher Smith (UK)

For Santa read *Father Christmas*, even though this is a British comedy. So, *Father Christmas* (Jim Broadbent) is on the run from the police, crashes his sleigh and is then befriended by a nine-year old boy (Connor) who wants to help his hero save Christmas. Incidentally Chrs Smith previously directed the extremely nasty *Creep*, *Severance* and *Back Death*. But this bears a U certificate. **Out 5 December**

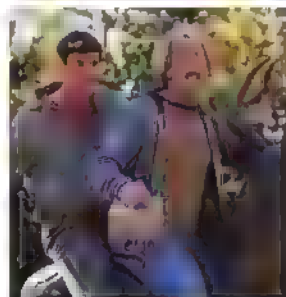
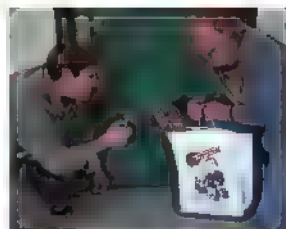


Dumb & Dumber

To CERT tbc

Starring Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels, Laurie Holden, Kathleen Turner, Bill Murray Directed by Bobby Farrelly and Peter Farrelly (USA)

Twenty years after *Dumb And Dumber* was released (almost to the day) and went on to gross \$247million worldwide, we have the sequel. Pedants will recall that there was a prequel (in 2003), but this is the first time that Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels, now fifty-two and fifty-nine respectively, have resurrected their characters of the cerebrally challenged morons Lloyd Christmas and Harry Dunne. Now they go on a road trip to find Harry's daughter who was given up for adoption. Think *Philomena* meets *Rain Man* and prepare to be offended. **Out 19 December**

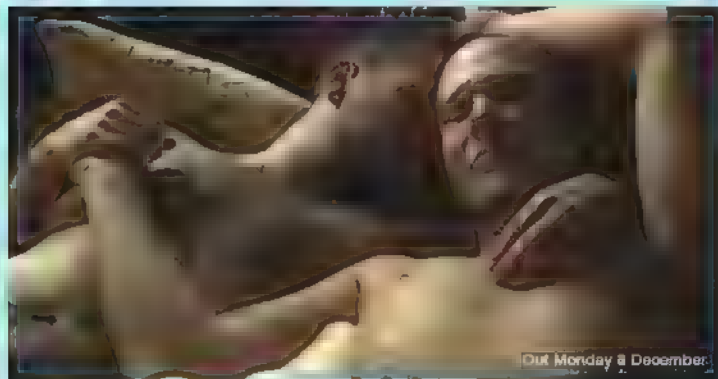


DVDs

In Their Room (18)

Visiting three of the most progressive cities in the world - San Francisco, Berlin and London - In Their Room captures the raw emotion and essence of gay men's lives in a provocative, sensual and unique way.

The series veers from bedroom to bedroom, watching these men navigate relationships with themselves and those around them - lovers, partners, friends. Some are single, others coupled, some hooking up - and all during the course of one day.



Big Gay Love (15)

Bob is a love-orn, portly, wise-cracking party planner who desperately needs to find Mr Right. He may just have found that love of his life in the person of Andy, a sweet, muscular chef. But with his catty friends commenting from the sidelines, his overbearing actress mom interfering and his own doubts, jealousies and fears

undermining things, is there any chance that this affair will succeed?

At times hilarious, as it offers a sharp rebuke to the superficiality of gay men's body obsession, this fast-paced tale is a refreshingly original story of an odd duck finding love in a pond of swans.



New Music



Stars

Collabro

The Britain's Got Talent favourites are back with a special edition of their debut album and just in time for Christmas! The five-piece boy band really captured the nation's imagination - and this album is something special!



NOW That's What I Call The 90s Various Artists

Stop everything! Just when we thought the NOW series was getting bland, they pull out this corker! Featuring over 60 tracks of pure 90s love, this trip down memory lane is a must-have for anyone who grew up during the decade. Go and get it!

III

Take That

Five become three as Take That release their seventh album following the departure of Robbie Williams and Jason Orange. In Gary Barlow's own words, III's sound is "an amalgamation of the past eight years" of Take That material...



...and something to read

Coming Out To Play

by Robbie Rogers

Coming Out To Play tells Robbie Rogers' harrowing story as a closeted gay man in the ultra-heterosexual world of professional football. Rogers knew he was gay from the age of 13, keeping it hidden until he was 25. For 12 years he mastered the art of deception. In a February 2013 blog post that received global attention, he finally came out to the world. Rogers' memoir is a moving account of love overcoming prejudice, and a clarion call to other gay sports people around the world to openly embrace their sexuality.



Legal Scene: Civil Partnership Conversion

If you're in a Civil Partnership, from Wednesday 10 December you'll be able to convert your union into a marriage. Here's everything you need to know...

According to figures released by the Office for National Statistics, 1,409 same-sex couples married in the first three months after the gay marriage law was introduced on 29 March 2014. Yet around 120,000 people already in civil partnerships have had to wait until this month to have the option to convert their union into a marriage. Here, Lee Trubshaw, Partner at solicitors Bradn, Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP and specialist in civil partnership dissolution, explains the conversion process...

How do my partner and I go about converting our civil partnership into a marriage?
From Wednesday 10 December 2014 you will be able to convert your civil partnership into a marriage at a register office, as long as the partnership has been registered in England, Wales or

overseas in an armed forces base or consulate. Both partners need to be present and to provide proof of identity and the original civil partnership registration. Once you sign a declaration that you wish to convert your civil partnership into a marriage and that the partnership hasn't been dissolved, the conversion will be registered and a marriage certificate issued. There's no official ceremony and no witnesses are needed.

How much does the conversion process cost?

There's a free conversion period until Wednesday 9 December 2015, during which time the £45 fee will be waived if your civil partnership was registered before 29 March 2014. Be aware, though, that the conversion fee will have to be paid after 9 December 2015, even if your civil

partnership was registered before 29 March 2014. It will also have to be paid if you registered your civil partnership after 29 March this year, or if you plan to register a civil partnership in the future and then later convert it into marriage. **Where can we convert our civil partnership?**

A conversion can take place at any register office in England or Wales. It doesn't have to be in the same office that you registered your civil partnership.

When does a converted marriage date from?

Once the civil partnership is converted into a marriage, the civil partnership will come to an end and the marriage is considered as if it had existed from the date of the civil partnership. This is why a certificate of marriage conversion is slightly different from one issued without a conversion, as it shows both the 'when married' date (the date the civil partnership was formed) and the date of conversion.

Are there any differences between a same-sex marriage and civil partnership?

Legally married couples can't call themselves civil partners. Likewise, civil partners can't call themselves married. Whereas marriages are recorded on paper in a hard-copy register, civil partnerships are recorded in an electronic register. A marriage certificate shows only the names of the fathers of both parties, a civil partnership certificate includes the names of both parents. A marriage is ended by divorce, a civil partnership by a dissolution order. Adultery is not

recognised as grounds for ending a civil partnership whereas it is for a marriage (although it's defined as with someone of the opposite sex outside of marriage). When it comes to matters such as income tax, inheritance tax, capital gains tax and pension benefits, lesbian, gay and bisexual people in either a marriage or civil partnership are treated in the same way as married heterosexual couples. **Does the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act affect transgendered people?**

From Wednesday 10 December 2014 marriages will be allowed to continue where one or both parties changes their legal gender and both wish to remain married. In addition and commencing the same date, it will also be possible for partners who both wish to change legal gender at the same time to remain in their civil partnership.

For advice on Powers of Attorney, civil partnerships and other legal matters, contact Bradn, Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP on 01543 421840 for a consultation or email info@btpeolicitors.co.uk. For more information, visit www.btpeolicitors.co.uk

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So you want to grow a beard?

With winter well and truly here, one of the best ways to keep your face warm is to grow a beard. What's more, beards are in fashion at the moment, with many guys growing one simply in order to keep up with the latest trend. Here's our handy guide to growing that perfect bush on your face...

BE PATIENT

Growing a beard won't happen overnight. It'll take months, maybe even a year, to get the result you're dreaming of. In the meantime, try to resist overshaping it during the first few weeks, until you can see what's happening with it. However, do use an electric trimmer to keep your beard's length even. You could even get your hairdresser to take a look at it every time you pop in for a haircut.

LIVE THROUGH THE ITCHINESS

We can all handle stubble, but as soon as it starts to grow that little bit longer, it's going to make your face itch. Live through it, though – it's just a phase. It may feel like you have a cactus rubbing against your face, but the unpleasantness will disappear after a week. Top tip: keep brushing your beard so your hair grows in the same direction.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Just like the hair on your head, you'll need to keep your wannabe-beard clean. There's going to be dirt, food and drink hanging in there! We'd suggest washing your beard every time you wash your hair and use a gentle shampoo and conditioner.

KEEP IT SOFT

Depending on how much money you want to invest in your beard, it pays to keep it soft. Using a beard oil will treat it, keep it soft (so as not to scratch your other half's face) and moisturise the skin underneath. Beard oil can be expensive, however, retailing at around £35 a bottle.

HARD LINES ARE BAD LINES

Keep your beard in check and don't allow it to end at your chin. In an ideal world, you should let the hair grow naturally up to about an inch or two above your Adam's apple, then fade it using a few different-length settings on your trimmer.

SHAPE YOUR FACE

If you've got a round face, then a more square beard can help to define your jawline. Try to trim it tighter on your cheeks and leave the hair a little longer around your chin.

GROW A MO

Whilst you're at it, why not let your moustache grow a little longer and start to curl the ends, to get that perfect handlebar mo? Who says you have to wait until November to give your moustache a bit of love?

THE FINAL WORD

Regardless of how you want to grow your beard, the key to success is perseverance and plenty of patience. You'll get there eventually – and you'll end up looking more rugged than you'd ever imagined possible.



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The Main Market Square



Pictures by Kevin Hotchkiss & Ryan Humphreys

Kraków, Poland: The original

Everyone loves a city break. And everyone loves cheap. So where in the world could you go that would offer you both? Kraków in Poland, of course! Last month, Midlands Zone Editor Ryan Humphreys and a bunch of his mates took a budget trip away for four days to Poland's second biggest city (and its oldest). There, they found history, architecture, friendly locals and, most embarrassingly, a karaoke bar...

Flights & accommodation

First things first; getting to Kraków is cheap. How cheap? Cheaper than a night out on your local gay scene, that's how cheap! Flying from Birmingham Airport on the Saturday evening and returning on the Tuesday night, our flights to Poland cost us a few quid over £40 return. Admittedly that was with budget airline Ryanair – but for a two-hour flight across Europe, you don't want to be paying much more. Couple your cheap flights with an eight-man dorm room at a local hostel (we stayed at the rather campily named Dizzy Daisy's) and you'll be looking at a maximum £85 for a four-day city break. The hostel was a ten-minute walk from the city's main market square and a twenty-minute taxi ride from the airport. This alone should be enough to sell you Kraków

Gay Kraków

Now let's get this straight – whilst Poland is one of the very few countries in the world where being gay hasn't ever been punished by law, it isn't exactly gay-friendly. Hundreds of years of Catholicism have created and maintained a feeling that 'gay is wrong'. So gay life is still pretty much buried

underground. Not many years ago, a gay pride march was ambushed by groups of football hooligans and religious extremists.

All is not lost for the LGBT community, though, as there are numerous gay bars, clubs and saunas around Kraków. You'll have to look hard for them, sure – but once you're there, you'll feel extremely safe in the vibrant atmosphere that's generated by the city's gay community.

Places to go...

When visiting Kraków, there's plenty to see and do. One of the most important excursions to make is a day trip to Auschwitz – the infamous Nazi concentration camp that's just an hour away from the city centre. The trip, which will cost you no more than £25, includes transport to and from your hotel and a very knowledgeable tour guide who'll accompany you around the two concentration camps: Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Regardless of whether you're into history or not, you'll feel so many different emotions during the seven-hour trip between the two camps. You'll learn about the Nazi reasons for establishing the camps and also about how prisoners were treated, where they lived, what they wore and what they ate. You'll also see

Auschwitz-Birkenau





Wawel Castle



St. Mary's Basilica

European 'budget city break'

where they were tortured, gassed and cremated. Take it from me, walking through the gas chambers at Auschwitz and seeing the fingernail marks down the walls where the camp's prisoners were trying to escape death certainly makes you count your blessings.

Elsewhere on the tour, you'll visit rooms of belongings that were stolen from the Jewish prisoners and Polish political prisoners: tons of hair, stool in plastic, thousands of pairs of shoes, glasses, brushes, handheld mirrors and luggage.

The belongings put into perspective just how many people were killed.

Halfway through the tour, you jump back on your bus and make the five-minute journey down the road to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The bigger of the two camps, it was partially demolished by the Nazis when they realised they were going to lose the war and wanted to cover their tracks.

Standing at the top of the watch tower and looking across the vast expanse, you'll struggle to believe just how big the camp is. The numbers are big too – the Nazis killed tens of thousands of innocent people every week, and nearly 1,500,000 during the period the camp was in operation.

The whole experience sobers you up and makes you look at your life in a very different way.

It's not all doom and gloom in Krakow, though. Right in the heart of the city is Wawel Castle, built by Casimir III the Great many centuries ago. The beautiful building and its open

courtyard provide impressive views across the city – and with a quaint little café situated in the courtyard of the grounds, it's a great place to stop off for a coffee.

In the heart of the city is the main market square, which most days hosts a collection of market stalls selling anything from flowers to delicious cheesy snacks.

It's also home to St Mary's Basilica, a church which dominates the square's skyline and one of the most photographed landmarks in the city. On every hour, a trumpet is played from the tallest of its two towers – a great way to keep track of the time.

If you're looking for even more to do, take a trip to the Krakow Salt Mines – stunning to look at and over 700 years old. Incredibly, devout miners have carved monuments, ornaments and altars out of the salt walls. It's a sight that needs to be seen to be believed.

My other top tip is to visit the Jewish Ghetto. It's here where the Nazis forced the Jewish community to resettle during the war. It's also home to Schindler's Factory – as depicted in the critically acclaimed film, *Schindler's List*.

Regardless of what you want to do in Krakow, there's plenty to keep you busy throughout your time there.

Food and drink

With your travel and accommodation being ridiculously cheap, you might expect a catch when it comes to the price of food and drink. Wrong. Just like the flights and

accommodation, the price of grub and beer will make you sick at the prices you usually pay back home.

With plenty of bars and restaurants from which to choose in and around the city centre, you won't be hungry or thirsty for long. There are restaurants catering for all types of tastes. There's local Polish cuisine, Indian, Italian and if you look hard enough, a couple of British places too.

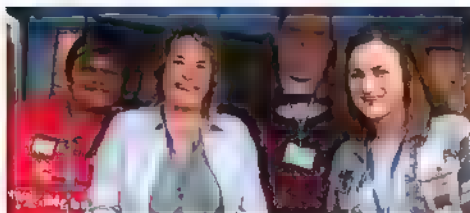
A three-course meal will cost between £7 and £12. Yep, you read that right – it really is that cheap. With great customer service from the locals and a great atmosphere and buzz in most venues, you're certainly happy to throw in a decent tip.

Wandering around the city, you'll come across plenty of bars hidden away down quiet alleyways. Many of Krakow's bars are underground, and it's here that you'll find the cheapest drinks. Expect to pay anything from 7 to 12 Zloty, which equates to between £1 and £2.

You'll certainly get through your city break with a budget of about £250 and will probably have change left over.

For more information about the city of Krakow and its surroundings, visit www.krakow-info.com

Birmingham LGBT searching for Wellbeing Champions



Birmingham LGBT is looking to recruit volunteer Wellbeing Champions. The champions will help improve health awareness within the LGBT community by carrying out 'wellbeing needs assessments'. They will also signpost people to relevant support and services.

The successful applicants would also be part of the community outreach team, and raise awareness of the charity's services.

Birmingham LGBT is also looking for someone who can spare some time in the day to support with the day-to-day running of the LGBT Centre. The role offers a unique opportunity to make a real difference to the LGBT community in Birmingham. Full training will be given.

For an application form and more information, contact Ann Strach by email at annstrach@bgbt.org, or call 0121 643 0821

Gloucestershire LGBT community group celebrates 40th anniversary

The oldest group in the country supporting gay rights has just celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community Group's first public meeting was held in 1974 by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Reverend John Yates.

The Gloucester Citizen reports 'John Junca, 67, was a founding member of the original group, called the Campaign For Homosexual Equality and said things had changed a lot in the last four decades.

"In the 1970s you had to be very careful with how the group was presented," he said. "We soon became aware there was a need for this group."

At a time when it was frowned upon by many Mr Junca, who lives in Leckhampton, decided to be openly gay when in his 20s and to support the group's equality push, often receiving abuse because of it.

"It wasn't an easy life. I did have some



problems with coming out, some people did object to living in the same block of flats as a gay man. It's a vastly different world now."

As well as social events, the group supports those struggling with their sexuality and meets every Thursday. The location can be found on the GGLC's website.

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01533 354 1747

www.health.com



Family Pride organisers announce winter festival party at Birmingham gay venue

Organisers of the annual Family Pride event are hosting a winter festival party at Birmingham's Eden Bar on the afternoon of Sunday 7 December.

The party follows on from the success of the weekend-long Family Pride event, which was held earlier this year to celebrate gay family life.

This month's event sees Eden Bar being turned into a festive winter wonderland, complete with a big Christmas tree and masses of sparkly decorations. A range of Christmas-themed arts and crafts activities take place throughout the day, with children being given the opportunity to create Christmas decorations.

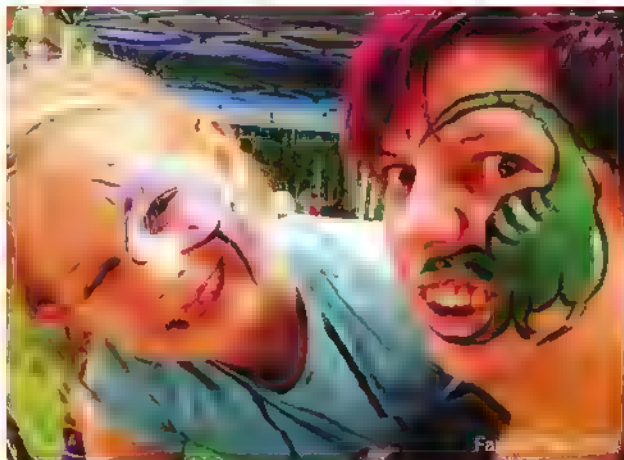
Pink Faces are also on hand to offer youngsters the chance to have fun with face painting. A family disco and buffet along with a complimentary glass of

bubbly and mince pies for the adults also features.

And no children's Christmas party would be complete without an appearance by Father Christmas himself. Kids can visit the big man in his magical grotto where, if they're good, they'll receive a present. Then it's on to the big party itself, where dancing, carols and plenty of fun games should ensure a good time is had by all. Tickets for the event, which takes place between 12pm and 6pm, are on sale now priced at just £10 per adult and £5 per child, with group discounts available.

The annual summer Family Pride festival takes place from Friday 7 to Monday 10 August 2015.

A full programme of events can be found on the Family Pride website, the address for which is given to the right.



To book tickets or find out more information about the Family Pride Winter Fest, visit www.familyprideuk.co.uk



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- Support and advice around your rights, discrimination or hate crime
- Twice monthly non-scene Gay & Bisexual Men's group
- UNIQUE - Young Persons (16-24 yrs) LGBTQ support

Contact us today to book an appointment or for more information.

Unit 2, Holloway House, Martin Hill Street, Dudley DY2 8BT

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Art Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality! Meets every Thursday 5.45-7pm Tel: 01902 450992

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone. Contact: actingout@btinternet.com or visit: www.actngout.org.uk

ARTPHORE Art group. Contact: beckytabbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly. LGBT Centre Bham. e: haddenshouse@hotmail.com

BDSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Contact: info@bdsso.org.uk or visit: www.bdsso.org.uk

DUDELY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday of Every Month. Tel: 01384 813660

GAPP (Gay and Performing Proud) Birmingham. Call Mike 07543 307791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel: Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call: Chris on 07740 865248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 0794 47206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Call Carolyn 0 826 647384 or Steve 07813 025950

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Monday monthly. 5.45pm. Tel: 0121 508 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e: dennis@leicesterslgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am. Walsall Central Library. Contact: Kim 01922 653121

LGBT Social

ALLSOME Group for young adults (18-26) LGBT. Centre Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon 0116 254 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Sat/Sunday 12-2pm. Village Hub, Galsworthy, Walsall. Tel: 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+). LGBT Centre Leicester. Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

DRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every

month at 7.30pm at the HCU, drop in. Tel: 01532 385760.

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene. Call 024 6 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester. www.dmlgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councc-qualifies/employee-network/about

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Men's Social Group. Tel: 01332 274271

DOSTI South Asian men's group Leicester. Call 0116 254 1747

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call: 08 03 215 21. Birmingham contact: 0121 551 3161

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in Bham. Tel: 0 749 412269

FAN LGBT Social Events Group. Normantons. www.fannorlants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Thurs 8-10pm. Tel: 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community. Social group meets every Thurs 7-9. Gloucs Centre 7.30. Tel: 01302 62 273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop in The Health Centre. Gaoi Street, Hereford. No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire. Tel: 0116 254 1747

IME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton. 2nd Sunday monthly. Tel: 0 817 548602

LADS CAFE Shropshire. Telford & Arkin. Call: 01562 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6-9pm. Tel: 07786 6 3066

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues e: lavendermovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6 38

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Strike on Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley. www.gaystone.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact: 0159476868

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community. West Midlands Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995. Call: 06450 060050

PINK SOUTHWESTERS South West Bham LGBT Group. Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call: 01962 274271

QUINIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm. Gorgeous Wooves. Tel: 01902 425092

SANDWELL GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP 4th Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at UJM. 3rd Monday monthly at The Aid. 8.15pm. Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding a voice. Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at Bham LGBT Centre. Call: 0121 643 1160

THIRD WAY Social Group for B people over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton 7.30pm. Tel: 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group. Call: 07779 560284

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only e: sqawwalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events on and around the university campus e: hello@warwickpride.org

WOLVERHAMPTON LGBT NETWORK Community Group. www.wolverhamptonlgbt.org.uk

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7.30pm in Walsall. Tel: 0 895 601527

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2012. E-mail: bccen@bt.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT communities e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGBT Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGBT groups for networking e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect

their lives. Call: 0121 446 1086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: dave@birminghamremembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEE NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 01782 425989

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community. Tel: 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire. Call: 0115 934 9029

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Monthly events for professionals and the LGBT community. Tel: 0116 254 1747

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 0 824 448 1 or Nicholas on 02476 231999

GREYFRIE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group for people 50+. e: lgbt50plus@redbuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am-1pm. Call: Trevor on 0 779 861640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call: Trevor on 0 754 829518

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi-sexual men in Walsall. Every Monday 4-6pm. Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER LGB Women's network social group. Derby based. Call: 0 779 506284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 266996

BIRMINGHAM BUDHIST Centre. Meditation Drop-in. Classes. Tel: 0 21 419 5279

BIRMINGHAM LGB CH Christian Organisation. Tel: 07943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST For Spirituality. Sat 5-6.30pm. Tel: 079 0 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham. Call: 0121 454 4406. Wolverhampton. Call: 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends. Call: 0 306 42 915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement. Tel: 0121 453 7299 or text: 07943 013345

QUAKER LESBIAN & GAY FELLOWSHIP Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principles. www.qigf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0800 808 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans. All Pagan paths welcome. Call: Rob 0 943 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay Christians e: ana247@hotmail.com or call: 079 4 764 68

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team. www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT Friendly Rugby Team. Call: Andy 0 708 336416 or visit: birminghambullsrlc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvillehockey.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team. Call: Gareth 0116 270 0137

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm. Tel: 0121 643 0821

LGBT Jumba Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact: gowcwm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call: Andy on 02476 336141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's (OC) Gay Swim Group. For info: call: 0121 346 1322

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOYS Gay football team formed in 2006. Call: 07828 014952

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads. www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call: Andy on 01782 266996 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: 01502 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club. Tel: Andy on 07825 305050

BIRMINGHAM CITY UML LGBT Social events every week. www.bcuqlgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union. www.udslgbt.com

LGBTASIAN COMMUNITY Tel: 0121 254 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University. Contact: Alex e: ar19@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: dmurphy@president@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBT ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbt@guid.bham.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: BirminghamGirlsNetwork@bt.com

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centered book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel: 0121 622 3213

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact: Bonnie at space318@bt.com

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area. Call: 0 305 9 3991

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

L BOW WOMEN Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesday monthly. Tel: 0 817 548602

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centered film club e: every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.torbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: ellygarra@bluewiner.co.uk

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor, on 01743 281722)

the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower Contact: olm.sue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN
Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266995

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e-me myself. 179@outlook.com

Frank Group

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP
Leicester LGBT Centre 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrexham. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call: 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

PRISM LGBT Support group for young people in Coventry. info@prismgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM Young LGBT SOCIAL GROUP
Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin: 01384 243220

XZY Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. info@xzy.org.uk

HIV AIDS Helpline

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call: 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE
Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (8 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES
Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT
Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERENCE HIGGINS TRUST
Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham: 0121 694 6440
Solithull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0121
Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves: 01902 711515

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH
Offers a range of confidential services, advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helpline

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD
Tel: 01332 349933

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE
Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence. Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Lorela Higgins). North Staffs. Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBO COUNSELLING SERVICE
Free counselling service for all sorts of LGBT related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE
Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs. Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE Free and confidential support. Call: 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH
Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGBT communities. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE
Support Groups. Sexual Health Testing. Cafe. Community Groups. Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE
Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 3444 4

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West. Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT
Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE
Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call: 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAIL STREET
Open Monday - Friday. Call: 01432 376915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Stryphshire, Telford & Wrexham. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House West Bromwich. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call: Matt 07960 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC
Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham. 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 833 9081

OUTINADS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call: 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH
Offers a range of confidential services for LGBT individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITFALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT
providing free, confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681751

Support Groups

Abplus Poz Gay Men's Group Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART
Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. smartgbt@yahoo.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND
gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call: 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: Lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. Call: 07779 560264

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female

counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support events. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HV MEN'S GROUP
Shropshire, Telford & Wrexham. Call: 01952 221410

HV WOMEN'S GROUP
Shropshire, Telford & Wrexham. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hgl.mhs.uk

KETERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION
Organises support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 825235

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE
Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK
Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGBT people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING
Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact: Alison. Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS

Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E. pinkparents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGBT armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM
Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 200 1695

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-In Service. Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

SWAN Wyrw Forest. Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone: Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING - Coventry. For all LGBT people. Tel: 07936 525665

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK
Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit: facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP
The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email: sally@outskirtsg.co.uk or visit: www.outskirtsg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help. Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKES Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS
Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092



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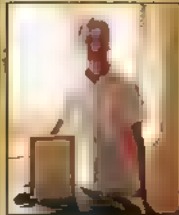
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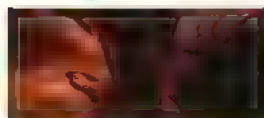
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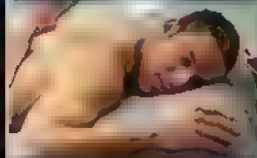
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Christmas

2014

Opening Hours - DARLASTON

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Christmas Eve	10.00 - 19.00
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Boxing Day	10.00 - 04.00
Sat 27 Dec	10.00 - 04.00
Sun 28 Dec	10.00 - 00.00
Mon 29 Dec	10.00 - 00.00
Tue 30 Dec	10.00 - 00.00
New Years Eve	10.00 - 20.00
New Years Day	10.00 - 00.00
Fri 2 Jan 15	10.00 - 04.00

DARLASTON

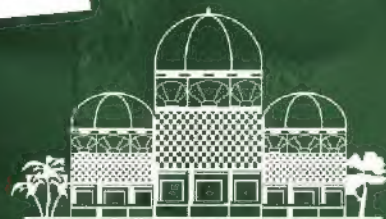
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Darlaston, West Midlands
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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

The advertisers' goose is getting fat

Christmas has already been knocking on our doors for several weeks. No sooner were the sun hats and bikinis removed from the shops than advent calendars and tinsel were taking their place.

As usual where the festive season's concerned, TV adverts have become sentimental, emotive and painfully overlong.

Marketing departments seem to adopt the same strategy with people at Christmas as they do with pregnant women, who they seem to think spend all of their time cooing at teddy bears and crying at pictures of babies.

Well, I've got news for you advertisers! We're getting festively fat, we're not pregnant!

Everyone's gone penguin crazy this year because of one boy's wet dreams about Pingu. And no, it doesn't make me want to go shopping, it makes me want to stay indoors and eat crisps. With non-festive menace. And World War One has been turned into some sort of A Team episode - entirely stripped of all the death, horrific gore and unimaginable hardship which it used to epitomise. Altogether too much saccharine on TV for my taste.

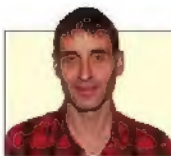
The main effect of all this tinsel-tittivated marketing activity is that winter feels about ten times as long as it used to. It already feels like it's been Christmas for months, yet the nights have only just started drawing in! This, of course, has the knock-on effect not of making me rush out and spend money but of confusing my grasp of time so much that I'll probably never get

around to doing any sort of Christmas shopping at all. Half of my brain is convinced that Santa must surely have been and gone already - the other half thinks the constant sugar rush means it must surely still be Easter.

Personally, I think the marketeers are missing a trick. They should keep very, very quiet about the whole thing, not mention Christmas at all, and then suddenly spring it on us about the 17th of December. That way, we'd all go belting off down the high street in search of the nearest goodies, chucking money at whoever would take it off us in exchange for something, ANYTHING, that we could quickly gift-wrap for Uncle John (please insert here the name of any family member appropriate to you).

People would be paying a tenner for a bauble, a pony for a bag of sprouts, a bad of sand for a pony... no, hang on, I'm getting myself confused there! The point is that we'd spend an absolute fortune in the space of just a few days - advertising spend would be minimal, kid-nagging time would be reduced to mere days - and I wouldn't have to spend week upon week agonising over what to buy Auntie Fern (again, insert your own member here... phnarrr!). It's a win win!

Happy festive season and a big 'Bah, humbug!' to you all!



ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Bah, humbug!

You'd need to have spent the last few months on the distant comet 67P not to have noticed that Christmas is once again upon us. Christmas cards were on sale in August, Christmas ads started appearing online in September, Christmas trees went up in Birmingham's Chamberlain Square before Halloween and Father Christmas and his reindeers switched on the city's Christmas lights on 9 November.

Sky, meanwhile, is telling us that 'movies make Christmas'.

Actually, they don't.

Spending time with family and friends, sharing presents, having parties and, for those of Christian faith, the birth of Jesus are what Christmas is all about. It's not a four-month consumer marathon. By the time we get to the day itself, we'll all be well and truly worn out!

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas - but it's just one day of the year and really shouldn't be an ordeal! It seems that the festive season is primarily driven by consumerism - not by people's enjoyment, or by the fact of it being a Christian celebration. Sometimes less is more. There's no way that Christmas can live up to the expectations that are built up. The commercialisation of Christmas can make it an intensely upsetting time for some people, and one that de-

livers severe financial difficulties to others. And I'm not alone in thinking this way. In an online poll, 72% of people said they thought Christmas nowadays started too early.

I wish we could all hold off on the festive advertisements and decorations till the 1st of December. That way, Christmas would become a holiday to look forward to instead of a full season of retail frenzy!



Quotes of the month...

Here, we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...

Male hockey team get naked to combat homophobia in sport

Well done lads! So brave of you all to do this!
Stuart Cooke (via Facebook)

I used to play hockey and my team didn't look at all like this. Otherwise I'd still be playing!
Carl Thornley (via Facebook)

This is so cool! Well done boys!
Russell M Cutler (via Facebook)



Gay men should be given vaccine that prevents types of cancer, say experts

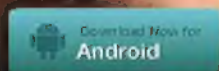
Well Michael Douglas contracted it in his throat from oral sex with women... Give [the vaccine] to everyone.
Lucy-Ann Hataley (via Facebook)

I agree with Lucy. If it's only being offered to gay men at GUM clinics, then you're only scratching the surface of the male population. It

should be given to young males and females at school, and everyone else now. That way, you can prevent the cancer now instead of debating it!

Nate Thornhill (via Facebook)

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GLASGOW 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

10:30PM - 3AM THE ARCHES, 30 MIDLAND ST, G2 8DL

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